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PART LI.

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

100

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FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

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Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. August 1880.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

Part LI.

[Correspondence respecting the Rectification of the Greek Frontier which does not appear in this Volume will be found in Confidential Paper No. 4255.]

No. 1.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 1.)

(No. 34.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June* 30, 1880.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 27 of yesterday, I trust course followed by me as reported in my despatch No. 150 of the 18th instant, and which should have already reached your Lordship, will be found to have fulfilled your instructions.

No. 2.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 1.)

(No. 88.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 30, 1880, 11·15 A.M.

CHANGES have been made among the Sultan's Secretaries which are regarded as indicating that fanatical party are gaining ground. An important post has been confided to Osman Pasha's brother-in-law. The impression on the public is very bad.

No. 3.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 1.)

(No. 89.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 30, 1880.

IF you have no other plans for Captain Sale, could he come here to report to me on all he has seen, or do you wish him to go to London?

No. 4.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 1.)

(No. 90.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 30, 1880.

ACTING Consul-General at Beyrout telegraphs the following, dated 28th:—

"British Vice-Consul at Caiffa telegraphs that last night Mussulmans revolted against Christians; revolt [? premeditated]: eight Christians severely wounded; more serious disturbances apprehended. I have telegraphed to Cyprus for ships of war. My French colleague telegraphs in this sense.

No. 5.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 1.)

(No. 91.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 30, 1880.

YOUR telegram No. 189.

Of what nature was the declaration of Her Majesty's Government renewed by Lord Odo Russell in favour of Mussulman population?

No. 6.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 1.)

(No. 92.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 1, 1880.

MONTENEGRIN Chargé d'Affaires tells me that the Minister for Foreign Affairs informed him last night that the Porte declined the Dulcigno proposal, and that they had now made the offer of a pecuniary indemnity to Montenegro.

(Sent to Scutari.)

No. 7.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 1.)

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, July* 1, 1880.

MEETING held yesterday; satisfactory progress continues.

No. 8.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 1.)

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, July* 1, 1880.

PLEASE ask Hertslet which of the Turkish islands of Ægean, if any, are in Europe. His attention specially called to Thasos, Imbros, Samothrace, and Lemnos.

No. 9.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, July* 1, 1880.

ALEKO PASHA started to-day for Constantinople, where he intends remaining about two weeks.

No. 10.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 263.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 1, 1880.

HER Majesty's Government propose to send the following instruction to Mr. Goschen, but before doing so would like to know if the Austrian Government will send similar instruction to their Ambassador:—

"Let the Porte know that the attention of Her Majesty's Government has been unavoidably drawn to the desires of the Albanians for self-government, which are so strong that they have even found expression to us in unusual forms, to the movements of a character really aggressive that are taking place, and to the apparent origin of these movements; and that Her Majesty's Government are extremely anxious that the Porte should appreciate the full significance of these facts upon the views of Her Majesty's Government."

No. 11.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 210.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 1, 1880, 7·45 P.M.

YOURS No. 89.

Instructions were yesterday telegraphed to Captain Sale to come straight to London.

No. 12.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 211.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 1, 1880, 7·45 P.M.

YOURS No. 91.

Views of Her Majesty's Government as to Mussulman population are stated in No. 1 to Lord Odo Russell, of which copy was sent to you in print on the 24th.

No. 13.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 1, 9 P.M.)

(No. 28. Confidence.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, July* 1, 1880, 7 P.M.

THE Conference sat for the last time to-day, and the Delegates leave to-morrow evening, after a farewell dinner given in their honour at the Russian Embassy to-night.

No. 14.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 173.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 1, 1880.

HER Majesty's Government have carefully considered the observations on the Albanian question made in your Excellency's despatch No. 69 of the 22nd ultimo, and the opinion you express that the proposed arrangements for granting a certain amount of self-government to the Vilayet of Scutari should not be allowed to interfere with the eventual formation of an united Albania.

Her Majesty's Government agree generally with your Excellency's views on this subject, and they would deprecate anything like undue precipitation in carrying into effect that portion of the scheme for the settlement of the Montenegrin frontier question which aims at granting special institutions to the Albanians in the immediate vicinity of the territory to be ceded to Montenegro.

This measure, as your Excellency is aware, was suggested as a means of obtaining the consent of the tribes to the scheme in question, and it was thought that it would naturally form a part of the general plan of reorganization to be elaborated under the supervision of the East Roumelian Commission. There does not, however, seem to be any probability that the proposal, if it should be adopted, will be submitted to the Commission at an early date.

The Porte meanwhile appears, according to the reports from your Excellency and Lord E. Fitzmaurice, to be on the eve of issuing a Firman constituting a large Province of Albania, which is to include the Vilayets of Kossovo, Monastir, Scutari, and Janina. Her Majesty's Government cannot, without further information, express any opinion on this arrangement, which, as far as they can judge, would include great numbers of Ottoman subjects who do not belong to the Albanian race, and who might be unwilling to form part of an Albanian province. But they see no objection to the extension of local self-government to the other districts inhabited by Albanians as well as to the Vilayet of Scutari, if it could be successfully introduced; nor would they take exception to the principle of an united Albania. Much, however, must, in their opinion, depend upon the extent of territory to be given to the new province, and upon the question as to how far it

would trench on the districts having an affinity to Greece or largely inhabited by a Greek population, and also upon the centre town which would be made the capital of the province.

It appears from Lord E. Fitzmaurice's report of M. Kosjek's language, that the Austrian Government would not be unfavourable to an united Albania, but I should wish to ascertain their views more fully before committing Her Majesty's Government to an approval of the arrangement, and I shall meanwhile await such further information respecting the plans of the Turkish Government as your Excellency may be able to furnish.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 15.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 190.)
Foreign Office, July 1, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch No. 45, inclosing a copy and translation of the identic note addressed by the Representatives of the Great Powers at Constantinople to the Porte, calling its attention to certain points of the Treaty of Berlin which have remained hitherto unexecuted.

The language of the note is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 16.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 194.)
Foreign Office, July 1, 1880.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT herewith a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Philippopoli relative to an Ordinance which has been promulgated by Aleko Pasha for the purpose of settling the question of titles to real property in Eastern Roumelia.*

Mr. Michell states that this measure is particularly oppressive as regards Mussulman proprietors, as it renders compulsory the exchange of all old titles to landed property for new provincial titles, and 80 per cent. of these Turkish proprietors are reported to have lost their title-deeds during the last emigration.

I should be glad to have your Excellency's opinion as to this measure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 17.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 199.)
Foreign Office, July 1, 1880.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government approve the part which you took in the discussions with your colleagues, reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 71 of the 22nd ultimo, relative to the communication to the Porte of the proposal for the settlement of the Montenegrin question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 18.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 200.)
Foreign Office, July 1, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 73, Confidential, of the 25th ultimo, forwarding a copy of a letter addressed to you by the Sultan's Private Secretary, and reporting the steps taken by you in consequence, and the remarks which you made to His Majesty at an audience which he granted you on the 25th ultimo, and I have to acquaint you that your conduct in this matter is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

With reference to the allusion in the Private Secretary's letter to the form of ratification of the Anglo-Turkish Convention, I inclose, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a memorandum prepared in this Office giving an account of the circumstances attending the ratification.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 19.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 334.)
Foreign Office, July 1, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 299 of the 22nd instant, reporting the steps which you have taken with a view to induce the Italian Government to send instructions to its Agent in Montenegro to support the new proposals for the settlement of the Montenegrin frontier question, and I have now to convey to your Excellency the approval of Her Majesty's Government of your Excellency's proceedings as reported in your despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 20.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 354.)
Foreign Office, July 1, 1880.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government consider that it would be advisable to let the Porte know that their attention has been drawn unavoidably to the desire of the Albanians for self-government, the strength of which is such that it has even found expression in communications made to Her Majesty's Government in unusual forms, to the movements that are taking place of a really aggressive character, and to the origin from which those movements apparently spring. They wish, in giving this intimation, to let the Porte understand that it is essential that the full significance of these facts in their bearing upon the views of Her Majesty's Government should be thoroughly appreciated by it.

As, however, Her Majesty's Government would desire to secure the concurrence of the Austro-Hungarian Government in this step, I have requested your Excellency, by telegraph, to ascertain from Baron Haymerle whether, if the proposed instruction is sent to Mr. Goschen, his Excellency will be prepared to send a similar instruction to the Austro-Hungarian Representative at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 21.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 23.)
Foreign Office, July 1, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Lordship's despatch No. 21 of the 10th instant, reporting a statement made to you by Mustrus Pasha that the Commission of which you are a

member had, under Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin, no right to deliberate on the details of the draft of Organic Statute to be submitted to them, but that their functions were limited to the expression of general approval or disapproval.

I entirely concur with you in rejecting such an interpretation of the Treaty, and I am glad to learn, from your later reports, that the Porte have not endeavoured to maintain it in practice.

Musurus Pasha is in error in stating that the language of your instructions was modified at his request. The instructions were, in fact, never communicated to him. But his Excellency possibly had in his mind the note to him of which I inclose a copy herewith. This note was addressed to him in reply to a Circular of the Porte communicated by him, and requesting that the Eastern Roumelian Commission might be convoked for the purpose contemplated in Article XXIII of the Treaty. The first part of the note contains a brief recital of the Circular in question (of which I also inclose a copy); and Musurus Pasha requested that the words, "in order that they may deliberate upon," which were used in the original draft," might be altered into the expression, "in order that they may give advice upon," as more correctly rendering the language of the Circular. I acceded to this alteration, which it seemed to me that he had a right to request, in order to show that he had made the communication in the exact terms desired by his Government, but I did not consider that, in so doing, I expressed any opinion tending to limit the powers to be exercised by the Commission under Article XXIII of the Treaty, nor do I think that such a contention could reasonably or fairly be advanced.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 22.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 24.)
Foreign Office, July 1, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Lordship's despatch No. 29 of the 21st ultimo, giving the report of an interview which you had with Cadri Pasha on the subject of the delay in summoning the Eastern Roumelian Commission, and I approve the language which you held to him on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 23.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 25.)
Foreign Office, July 1, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 27, giving a report of the first official meeting of the Eastern Roumelian Commission, and I approve the language held by your Lordship on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 24.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 2.)

(No. 67. Conference. Confidential.)
Berlin, June 29, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE communicated the substance of your Lordship's Conference despatch No. 17, Confidential, of the 26th instant, to my colleagues, respecting the principle of pecuniary compensation for rectification of frontier, and have explained to them the views held on that subject by Her Majesty's Government.

My colleagues were none of them in a position to reply without previous reference to their respective Governments, so that I must wait until they receive the necessary instructions before I can reply more fully to your Lordship's despatch.

Sir Peter Brailas Armieni I have not been able to see to-day, but I shall call on him again to-morrow; and I will also consult with the Turkish Ambassador on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 25.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 2, 10·15 A.M.)

(No. 93.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 1, 1880, 8·30 P.M.

FRENCH Ambassador tells me he had received instructions from his Government to see Abeddin as soon as possible, and the Sultan, and to tell them distinctly that the Porte must bow to the will of Europe, and to give them to understand that if they refused some European Powers might have recourse to active measures to enforce the decision of the Berlin Conference.

He has seen Abeddin, spoke in the plainest language, using the phrase that the dismemberment of the Empire might be brought about by resistance.

In reply, he learnt from Abeddin that the Sultan, when he last saw him, and the Porte also, had determined not only to allow the Albanians to resist, but to declare war on Greece if Greece attempted to take the territory assigned to her.

But when this decision was taken, the idea had not prevailed that the Powers themselves would take active measures. Abeddin confessed himself greatly moved by this news, and thought the Sultan would be deeply affected also, but, nevertheless, he looked upon it as impossible to abandon the Albanians. To yield would be the death-blow of Turkish power. They might as well perish honourably.

Tissot will probably see the Sultan the day after to-morrow.

No. 26.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 2, 4·30 P.M.)

(No. 95.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 2, 1880, 1·45 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 207, Colonel Wilson commences his inquiry at once.

No. 27.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received July 2, 10·50 A.M.)

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) *Corfu, July* 2, 1880, 8·20 A.M.

YOUR Lordship's telegram of the 30th June just received. I leave this to-morrow, and expect to arrive in London on Tuesday morning.

No. 28.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 285.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 2, 1880.

PRINCE LABANOFF tells me that his Government have taken exception to his statement to me that Russia would be prepared to furnish 20,000 men, as he was not instructed to say it. Austrian and German Governments have been asking them what it means. You may read to M. de Giers the account given of my conversation with the Prince in my despatch No. 272 of the 12th ultimo, which entirely tallies with his recollection of it.

No. 29.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 203.)
Foreign Office, July 2, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received from Colonel Wilson the copy of an interesting despatch No. 47 of the 28th May, addressed to your Excellency, reporting his experience of the state of affairs in the Vilayet of Aidin. The action taken by Colonel Wilson to obtain the freedom of a slave belonging to a Turkish Notable at Aidin would appear to merit your Excellency's approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 30.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 285.)
Foreign Office, July 2, 1880.

My Lord,

I AM informed by Prince Lobanow that his Government have taken exception to the statement he made to me in the course of our conversation on the 21st ultimo, that Russia might, he believed, be induced to furnish a body of troops to carry out the decisions of the Powers in the event of their meeting with resistance on the part of the Porte.

The Austro-Hungarian and German Governments have, it appears, asked for explanations from the Russian Government as to the intentions attributed to it by the Russian Ambassador at this Court.

I have communicated to Prince Lobanow the account of what passed between us, which is contained in my despatch No. 272 of the 21st; and as his Excellency confirms the correctness of my report, your Excellency may read that despatch to M. de Giers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 31.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 86.)
Foreign Office, July 2, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 203, Confidential, of the 17th ultimo, reporting a conversation you had had with M. Tricoupi in regard to the proceedings of the Conference at Berlin.

With reference to the doubt you expressed to M. Tricoupi as to the view which the Powers might take of any attempt on the part of Greece to employ force to carry out the decision of the Conference, you will have learnt by my telegrams of the 23rd and 25th instant, which I sent to you before receiving your despatch, that Her Majesty's Government consider that you should for the present refrain from expressing any opinion on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 32.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 362. Secret.)
Foreign Office, July 2, 1880.

Sir,

IN conversation with the Austrian Ambassador to-day I stated that the Porte, according to our accounts, were withdrawing their regular troops from the district of Dulcigno, but were pouring in Albanian volunteers. On the other hand, it was believed that the Prince of Montenegro is able but would not be willing to seize the district.

Would the Austrian Government, I inquired, join us in asking the Prince whether he would do so with the naval assistance of Austria, Great Britain, and any other of the

Powers who were willing to send ships and marines; each Power pledging itself not to take any selfish advantage. As it is believed that the population of the district do not desire to offer resistance, compulsion would only be necessary as against strangers who had arrived or were arriving.

Such action as I suggested would not give rise to danger at Constantinople, but it would prove to the Turks that the Powers are in earnest, and that the Porte could not rely upon their abstaining from measures of force. It would settle the Montenegrin question, and would have an advantageous effect upon the fulfilment of the other conditions of the Treaty of Berlin.

I added that negotiations might possibly be simultaneously carried on with the Albanians.

In answer to an observation of Count Károlyi, I said that though we thought it impossible that the united Powers should allow the Porte to take no notice of their recent demands, and although Her Majesty's Government would not be those who would hang back from any necessary co-operation, we had no pretension to act alone as the policemen for Europe.

If, therefore, the Austrian Government agreed with us in taking the proposed step with regard to Montenegro, it appeared to us desirable to obtain a contingent from as many of the Powers as would be able and willing to join.

Count Károlyi said that he had no instructions which would enable him to reply to my inquiry; that the idea was new to him; but that he thought it might be favourably considered by his Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 33.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received July 3.)

(No. 9 A. Political.)
Janina, June 21, 1880.

My Lord,

IN extension of my telegram of yesterday's date, I have the honour to report that yesterday evening I was informed on good authority that a telegram had very recently been received from Vasil Bey, the brother of the present Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, by the leaders of the Albanian-Mahommedan party at Janina, and that this telegram was to the following effect:—

"That the leaders of the Albanian League were at once to communicate to the Powers their unalterable determination to resist to the last any alienation of territory, and that should the Berlin Conference decide against them they were at once to take up arms and exterminate the Christians."

My informant who brought me this news was evidently much alarmed, but I have every reason to think that the latter portion of the telegram was sent in order that the contents might leak out and frighten the Christians from making demonstrations.

I am this day informed that the Mahommedan-Albanians had been thinking of calling a general meeting of Southern Albanians at Tepeleni to discuss the question of resistance or submission, but that since the above-mentioned telegram was received they have abandoned the idea of the meeting, being bent on resistance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE.

No. 34.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received July 3.)

(No. 10. Political.)
Janina, June 22, 1880.

My Lord,

IN extension of my telegram of this day's date, I have the honour to reply to your Lordship's telegraphed question, that of the three signatories of the petition addressed by telegraph to your Lordship from Janina, the first two, Khaïreddin Pasha and Naki Malik Pasha, or more correctly Naki Bey, son of Malik Pasha, are descendants of the celebrated Ali Pasha of Janina, but are not otherwise of any particular consequence, and one of them is comparatively a stranger in the place.

The third signatory of the petition is, however, a person of some importance. He is the same individual as the Moustafa Achmet Pasha, or more correctly Moustafa Bey, son of Achmet Pasha, who is mentioned in Blue Book "Greece No. 1" of 1880, at page 41. He is well spoken of by everybody here.

Quite recently—within the last few days—a Committee has been formed in Janina to promote the Albanian cause.

This Committee, of whom the names are given in an inclosed paper, is composed exclusively of Mahommedans, notables of Janina, and has organized local Committees in the outlying Mahommedan towns.

The petition addressed to your Lordship was framed by this Committee, and was sent, as I have reason to believe, in compliance with telegraphic instructions received from Constantinople from Vasil Bey, the brother of the present Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Committee is exclusively Mahommedan, and may be taken as fairly representing the Mahommedan feeling in the place.

As to the representatives of the outlying towns mentioned in the petition, it is scarcely possible that they could have actually taken part in sending the petition in question, though it represents the all but unanimous feeling of the Mahommedans of those towns.

Two of the most active members of the Janina Committee are Kiamil Effendi and Abdul Bey Phraschari, the former of the gentlemen being the chief of the Mahommedan priests, and representing religious feeling in its most intense form, whilst the latter is the gentleman named in No. 226 of Blue Book "Greece," of 1879, as having visited the Marquis of Salisbury at the Foreign Office in the character of Albanian Delegate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE.

Inclosure in No. 34.

List of Members of Albanian-Mahommedan Committee of Janina.

Names.	Native Place.	Remarks.
Khäireddin Pasha	Janina	Descendant of Ali Pasha.
Naki Bey, son of Malik Pasha	Libohovo ..	Ditto.
Kiamil Effendi	Janina	Chief Hodja.
Hassim Effendi	Ditto.	Much respected by Christians.
Tzelal Bey	Ditto	
Moulim Agha	Tepeleni.	
Osman Tahir	Ditto.	
Mehmet Belp Effendi	Janina.	
Beehai Effendi	Ditto.	
Abdul Bey Phraschari	Phraschari ..	See Blue Book, "Greece No. 1" of 1879, No. 226
Ali Bey Tselso	Lioscoviki.	
Moustafa Bey, son of Achmet Pasha ..	Janina	The man of most influence, but not the leader.

(Signed) M. T. SALE.

No. 35.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received July 3.)

(No. 12.)
Janina, June 25, 1880.

My Lord,

IN the course of the inquiries which I have been making with reference to the ethnology of Epirus, I have had occasion to converse with all classes of the community both here in Janina and also along the route between Siyadih and this place, the route nearest to the proposed frontier.

I have particularly deprecated the discussion of the political affairs which agitate this district, but in the present extremely excited state of both Christians and Mahommedans it is nearly impossible to make a distinction between ethnological and political investigation.

Almost every statement made to me is made with a view to its bearing on either the Christian or Mahommedan side of the question at issue, so that it is difficult to get at the truth.

But by comparing statements, and by taking into consideration the admissions made by each side where against their own interest, I have been able to arrive at certain conclusions which may prove of interest to your Lordship.

I am fully convinced, both by the statements of all classes of Christians, and by the admissions of the Mahommedans themselves, that the vote of the Christian population of Epirus would be practically unanimous in favour of annexation to Greece, and that however this feeling may have arisen, it is now a very strong and real one.

The Mahommedans are also, as I have every reason to believe, quite unanimous in their wish to remain under the rule of the Sultan, and are, at any rate for the present, sincere in their expressed intention to resist by force of arms any cession of territory on the side of Epirus, even should the cession of territory be approved of by the Porte.

But the Mussulmans here do not believe that the Sultan will agree to yield any part of Epirus to Greece.

The information which I have so far received tends to confirm the accuracy of the ethnological chart published by M. Gubernatis last year, in so much as regards the distribution of the Greek-speaking and Albanian Greek-speaking Epirotes, but it should be remarked that the Mohammedan population does not extend further south than the town of Margariti, excepting always those Mahommedans who are to be found in and near the towns of Prevesa and Arta.

According to the best information that I have been hitherto able to procure, in that part of Epirus which lies south of the Kalamas River, together with the districts of Philiates and Zagori, the proportion of Christian to Mahommedan inhabitants is as five to one, but of the land about one-half is owned by Christians, and the remainder by the Government and by Mahommedan proprietors conjointly. Strictly speaking, however, the whole of the land in Epirus is owned by the Sultan.

The Christian Albanian-speaking portion of the community have not, as far as I can ascertain, any sympathy whatever with the Mahommedans, and are desirous of joining Greece; indeed, though the expression "Albanian nationality" is freely used here, it appears to me to disguise the real question at issue, which is simply that of Christians *versus* Mahommedans.

The Albanians in this district are always looked upon as Mahommedans by the Christians, and not as compatriots.

In the town of Janina itself there are, in round numbers, 11,500 Christians, 5,000 Mahommedans, and 3,000 Jews. Most of the property is in the hands of the Christians, who are practically unanimous in their wish for annexation to Greece. The Jews rather incline towards the Mahommedans, and state that, with the improved administration which they hope and expect to see, they would prefer to remain under the rule of the Sultan.

On the other hand, the leading Mahommedans declare energetically that they will not allow the town to pass into Greek hands whilst they can prevent it, and in so saying they do but express the feeling of all their co-religionists.

I have ventured to make these observations in case they might be of use to your Lordship, and think that they may be relied on in spite of the fact that I have arrived here so recently.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE.

No. 36.

Captain Sale, R.E., to Earl Granville.—(Received July 3.)

(No. 13. Political.)
Janina, June 25, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE been in conversation with a number of proprietors of the districts of Zagori and Mulacassi on the subject of brigandage in those districts.

The former of these districts lies to the north of Janina, and the latter contains the sub-district of Mezzovo, and both of them are favourite hunting-grounds for brigands.

It is admitted on all hands that there is nothing whatever to choose in the matter of brigandage between Christians and Mahommedans; they both co-operate in this pursuit with perfect cordiality, but it is generally said that the worst men in each band are Vlachs.

I endeavoured to ascertain if there was any truth in the allegation so frequently made, that the brigands were secretly supported by the Greek Government, but cannot find any

grounds for these statements. Nor is any such supposition necessary to account for the prevalence of this crime.

By habit and tradition the more evil-disposed of the villagers take to brigandage quite naturally, and only too frequently find it both pleasant and profitable.

The particular form taken here by brigandage makes it specially difficult to eradicate it thoroughly.

Those peasants in each village who are brigands are apparently perfectly well known as such in their own villages, where they remain quietly for the greater part of the year; but as they never operate against their own folk, and as their fellow-villagers are afraid to denounce them, they go on from year to year with much impunity.

During the winter, when it involves hardship to remain out in the forest, brigandage is reduced to a minimum, but with the return of summer all the idle ruffians of the country take to the mountains again.

The two districts named are so thoroughly terrorized by the brigands, that numbers of the proprietors have come into Janina for safety, and are compelled to abandon their own houses for fear of being captured and held to ransom; and any one who has the reputation of being at all rich remains in the country only at considerable risk.

Much of the impunity which has encouraged these men of late is due to the fact, that those who have been captured and held to ransom are afraid of denouncing their captors after their release for fear of future vengeance.

From all that I can gather, brigandage is rather on the increase than otherwise in this district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.,*
Commissioner.

No. 37.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received July 3.)

(No. 14.)
My Lord, *Janina, June 25, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report that when passing along the valley of the Kalamas, *en route* from Siyadih to Janina, I found that both the Austrian Staff map and the Greek map of M. Chrysochöos were quite incorrect and misleading, at any rate as regards the topography of the northern watershed of that river.

I bring this to your Lordship's notice in case the delineation of ground in these maps should be relied on when deciding on a line of frontier.

I am informed that another map, with more pretension to accuracy, has quite recently been published in Athens by M. Funduly, formerly Secretary to the Greek Consulate here. This I have not as yet been able to procure, but as the Greeks here say that M. Funduly had neither instruments nor technical knowledge, it is not easy to see how his map can be an improvement on the previously existing ones.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE.

No. 38.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received July 3.)

(No. 15. Political.)
My Lord, *Janina, June 25, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report that some of the leading Mahommedans of Janina called upon me recently. They wished at first to come as a deputation on the part of the Albanian inhabitants of the town, but this I at once objected to as being entirely out of my province to receive deputations and to discuss political matters.

Eventually these gentlemen came as private visitors, but in the course of conversation they stated their case at some length.

The case urged by these gentlemen was much the same as that given on p. 150, Blue Book "Greece No. 1" of 1879, but I recapitulate those points on which most stress was laid, namely:—

1. That the Greek-speaking Epirotes, however much they may be Hellenized at present, were certainly descended from Albanian ancestors.

2. That Albania must be taken as a whole, and on any question of alienation of territory the opinion of the whole nation must be asked, and not only the wishes of the people of the outlying province immediately concerned.

3. That the Albanians perceived that the existence of their race as a nationality depended on the issue of the present difficulties. If they tamely submitted to have their country encroached on both to the north and the south, their future power of resistance would be destroyed, and nothing would remain to them but to become subject to Slavs or Greeks, a fate they would never submit to.

4. The gentlemen added that they were well aware that Europe had looked upon them hitherto as a set of barbarians, good for nothing but fighting; but they were resolved to remain under this stigma no longer; they were determined to establish a civilized nation in which all religions should be equal, but that if the only valuable and fertile land in the country were taken from them, they would be deprived of the means of carrying out the schemes of improvement they desired so much, and would be compelled to remain in barbarism.

They further added that they wished to remain loyal subjects of the Sultan, but that if they were abandoned by the Porte they would fight none the less.

These and many other arguments were urged with much force, but as they are to be found very well expressed in the Blue Book, I do not further repeat them.

I may add that the gentlemen in question seemed very much in earnest, especially as regards fighting; but I think that with them, perhaps unconsciously, Albanian nationality means Mahommedan supremacy.

It is a curious illustration of the difficulties in the way of Albanian nationality that Abdul Bey Phraschari, the spokesman of the party, and perhaps the most ardent champion of the Albanian cause in Janina, is not himself an Albanian, but is the son of an Arab father by an Albanian mother.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE.

No. 39.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received July 3.)

(Confidential.)
My Lord, *Corfu, June 29, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that on Sunday, the 27th instant, I received a telegram from Captain Sale informing me that he will be at Prevesa on Wednesday evening, the 30th, and asking me if Her Majesty's ship "Coquette," stationed here, could be sent to bring him up here. I have consequently requested her Commander (Festing) to do so, and who starts to-morrow morning, and I hope will be here again on Thursday evening with the Commissioner.

Captain Sale informs me that he was told in Janina that the Christian signatures to the petition sent to your Lordship from Margariti, and which was the subject of my cypher telegram to your Lordship of the 22nd instant, were added on compulsion, and that the Mussulmans are terrorizing them in the districts of Paramythia and Margariti.

An intelligent Christian from that district whom I have closely interrogated (all alone) on the subject, and who lately arrived here from that quarter, told me emphatically the reverse. On my drawing him out, he said, "Although we do not like the Turkish administration, still we prefer it to union with Greece, and for these reasons: We now pay far less taxes than we should have to do under Greece. We have no conscription. The Tribunals in Turkey are corrupt, but we can get justice there cheaper than we could in Greece.

"Almost all the public posts in Greece being occupied by people sent from Athens, the same would be the case in Epirus. At present we have many Albanians in public posts in Epirus. We can live in Epirus for less than half of what is required in Greece. I could add many other reasons; notwithstanding all of them, however, we should, of course, prefer an autonomy to the Turkish rule."

He added, "The real way to ascertain the true feeling of the Christians would be by the ballot. I know many who are now speaking differently to what they feel, from fear of their co-religionists." Every one knows how difficult it is to get at the truth out here; and it is only one who understands their language and habits who can get nearest at it.

We have almost daily telegrams from Athens published here, and which are taken by

the sensible people for what they are worth. Three days ago, however, a telegram arrived here from one of the Hellenic Mission to Berlin, as follows:—

"Giovanna (meaning Janina), with all her children, are, by unanimous consent, going to Greece."

This has caused great excitement here, coming, as it did, from one of their own Representatives in Berlin.

On Sunday last, the 27th, the Hellenic frigate "Hellas" arrived here from Santa Maura with one battalion of infantry, one company of engineers, and one battalion of artillery, altogether about 600 men.

I have heard from a reliable person here, who is well informed, and whose sympathies are entirely with Greece, that an Albanian, Kiazim Bey, Governor, I believe, of Argyrocastro, was lately charged to convey to Constantinople a document signed by all the Chiefs of the League on the part of all Albania, couched in firm language, asserting their determination to resist to the last the concession to Montenegro or Greece of any part of their country, and that if the Sultan did not conform to their wishes, and give them a better Government, they would apply to the Great Powers for autonomy.

It appears this reached Constantinople, and Kiazim Bey was telegraphed to start at once for the capital. He was brought here on Friday last by a boat of a Turkish iron-clad which had proceeded to Santa Quaranta for him. On Saturday evening last he went down to Prevesa, and I have informed Captain Sale of this in case the Bey is there when he arrives, and also in case he might wish to try to see him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 40.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 3, 2·30 A.M.)

(No. 93.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July* 2, 1880, 10·30 P.M.

I HAVE communicated your Lordship's telegram No. 263 to Baron Haymerle, who does not fully understand the object of the instructions you wish him to send to the Austrian Minister at Constantinople.

He does not consider the Albanian petitions deserving of being taken seriously, as they are known to be concocted at Constantinople, and says that he had already engaged to support in the European Commission the autonomy of the Vilayet of Scutari.

With regard to the news of Albanians having been directed against Montenegrin positions near Merkovitch, the Austrian Minister at Constantinople has already been instructed energetically to call upon the Porte to order the Governor of Scutari at once to repress the movement.

Baron Haymerle asks me to ascertain from your Lordship whether it is to either of these proceedings that your telegram refers.

No. 41.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 3, 3·55 A.M.)

(No. 35.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, July* 2, 1880, 1·30 P.M.

FOLLOWING telegraphed to Mr. Goschen, under No. 30.

"With reference to your telegram of yesterday, I cannot say whether or no Montenegro will listen to fresh proposal for the settlement of affairs, but probably the vista of unlimited negotiations opened by Article XXXIII of Treaty of Berlin will be less pleasant to Prince Nicholas than to the Porte.

"I beg to draw your Excellency's attention to third paragraph of my despatch No. 128 of the 20th May to Lord Granville, where I pointed out the end which the Porte would most likely endeavour to attain, and to record once again that the Turkish Government, by its reckless intrigues, is plunging Northern Albania into anarchy and ruin.

"(Sent to Lord Granville.)"

No. 42.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 3, 7·40 P.M.)

(No. 97.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 3, 1880, 3·15 P.M.

MONTENEGRO. Aheddin Pasha informed me yesterday that the Porte would make an effort to execute the April arrangement, and would send 6,000 men and some money.

No. 43.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 3, 8 P.M.)

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, July* 3, 1880, 5·45 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 6 and to my despatch No. 214 sent yesterday, M. Tricoupi sends to-day by post to King for his signature one Proclamation calling out reserves and mobilizing the army, the measures for the purpose to be taken gradually and as circumstances may seem to require; another Proclamation convoking the Chamber in ordinary session beginning of September, when Decree for mobilizing army will be communicated to it, as prescribed by law.

As these measures are rather contrary to King's views, M. Tricoupi will telegraph to His Majesty in [group wrong] days, to prepare him for receipt of despatches asking His Majesty to sign Proclamations mentioned above.

No. 44.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 271. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 3, 1880, 8 P.M.

I TOLD Austrian Ambassador yesterday we had heard the Porte was withdrawing regular troops from Dulcigno district, but pouring in Albanian volunteers. Prince of Montenegro was believed able but not willing to seize the district.

I inquired if the Austrian Government would join us in asking the Prince whether he would be willing to do so with naval assistance of Austria, Great Britain, and any other of the Powers pledging itself not to take any selfish advantage. District population believed not desirous of resistance, compulsion only required against strangers.

I said such action as suggested would not give rise to danger at Constantinople, but prove Powers in earnest, and that Porte could not rely on abstinence from force. It would settle Montenegrin question, and have good effect on fulfilment of other conditions of Berlin Treaty.

Negotiations might possibly be simultaneously carried on with the Albanians.

We thought it impossible United Powers should allow Porte to ignore recent demands. Although Her Majesty's Government would not hang back from any necessary co-operation, they had no pretensions to act alone as policemen for Europe.

If, therefore, Austria agreed with us in taking proposed step, it appeared desirable to obtain a contingent from as many Powers as would be able and willing to join.

Count Károlyi said he had no instructions which enabled him to reply; the idea was new to him; but he thought his Government might favourably consider it.

No. 45.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 206.)

Foreign Office, July 3, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the terms of the note which Sir Henry Layard addressed to the Porte on the 28th May last, submitting for approval a draft of the proposed Protestant Constitution.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 46.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 4.)

(No. 50. Conference. Secret.)

Berlin, June 27, 1880.

My Lord,

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram of last night, pointing out the differences which appear in the report of my speech in Protocol No. 1, and in the full text, inclosed in my despatch No. 27 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to explain that the Secretaries of the Conference, in following the precedents established by the Protocols of the Congress of Paris and of the Congress of Berlin, only give very short précis of the speeches made.

I had given the written text of my speech to the Secretaries to make their précis from, and did not insist, as it now appears I ought to have done, on the whole being printed, so that the omission which has unhappily occurred is due to an oversight on my part, and no blame whatever attaches to the Protocolists.

It is now too late to amplify the Protocols already in print; but I will take an early opportunity, when the subsidiary questions are discussed, of placing on record my former declarations in favour of the rights and property of the Mussulman population and of religious toleration.

If necessary, the text of my speech might also be printed with the Protocols later on.

I have thought that it would be found an advantage to Her Majesty's Government if I only spoke when strictly necessary, so as to let the Representatives of the other Great Powers initiate the recommendations they might think conducive to the consolidation of the European concert.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 47.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 4.)

(No. 58. Conference. Secret.)

Berlin, June 29, 1880.

My Lord,

IN a private conversation which preceded the last meeting of the Conference, my colleagues, after expressing their regret that the Austrian newspaper had been enabled to publish accounts of our proceedings, agreed that we must endeavour, as far as we were each individually concerned, to maintain the secret of our Protocols, Reports, and maps until they have been published by our respective Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 48.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 4.)

(No. 69. Conference.)

Berlin, June 30, 1880.

My Lord,

IN obedience to your Lordship's telegraphic instructions, I have informed my colleagues that the draft of the identic note to Turkey and Greece, adopted by them at the last meeting of the Conference, should be converted into a collective note.

As the end of the Conference is approaching, I beg your Lordship will let me know whether Her Majesty's Government have any further instructions to give me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 49.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 4.)

(No. 70. Conference. Confidential.)

Berlin, July 1, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAD some conversation with Prince Hohenlohe on the subject of your Lordship's despatch No. 21, Conference, of the 28th ultimo, to-day, and found that His Highness shared your Lordship's hope that it might be possible, if the Powers showed an united and determined front, to attain a settlement of the Greek frontier question without the necessity of having recourse to menace or the employment of force.

Referring to the Russian offer of 20,000 men, if England would supply transport, His Highness said that Germany, faithful to her declared policy, would give her moral support to the concerted and unanimous action of the Powers, but would not, in the event of coercion being resolved upon, take any part in an expedition to Greece, which he sincerely hoped would not be found necessary in the end.

His Highness added that he had warned the Turkish Ambassador, confidentially, of the grave complications which might result from a refusal of the Porte to carry out the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin in regard to the rectification of the Greek frontier.

In reply to some questions of mine, His Highness admitted that if a naval demonstration alone were resolved upon by the Powers, Germany might, under certain circumstances, consent to "show the German flag" in Eastern waters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 50.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 4.)

(No. 71. Conference. Secret.)

Berlin, July 1, 1880.

My Lord,

I SHOWED General Sir Lintorn Simmons your Lordship's despatch No. 21, Conference, of the 28th ultimo, and begged of him to put on paper the observation he had made to me on its contents for my own confidential information.

The General's letter is so full of valuable remarks that I do myself the honour of inclosing it in original to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

Inclosure in No. 50.

General Sir L. Simmons to Lord Odo Russell.

(Confidential.)

Berlin, June 30, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the conversation I had with your Lordship to-day, I venture to submit, for your Lordship's consideration, the following observations:—

According to current reports, for which it would appear there is some foundation, the Greek Government are preparing a military force for the purpose of occupying the territory to be ceded by Turkey, and that this force is being assembled partly on the mainland and partly in the Island of Corfu.

It appears to me that any proceeding of this nature, which, so far as regards the Island of Corfu, is contrary to Treaty, is strongly to be deprecated—at any rate, for the present—because Turkey cannot as yet have been fully informed of the award of the Powers and of the reasons which have dictated it, and because it is not reasonable to expect a decision on her part until she has had sufficient time for deliberation.

For my own part, I cannot conceive that the Sultan will be so utterly regardless of his own interests and of those of his Empire as to reject an unanimous award, which, if it had taken the form desired by Russia, would have been of a far more painful and adverse nature than that which has been agreed to. I venture to think that the

demand should, in the first instance, be urged in a firm and decided tone, accompanied by an intimation that the question does not admit of delay and a representation of the consequences which must follow its rejection.

I was much struck, in a private conversation I had with the Turkish Ambassador a few days ago, by his utter ignorance of the topography of the country; he did not appear to know the extent of the valleys of the two rivers mentioned in the 13th Protocol of the Berlin Congress, and I had difficulty in making him understand that the cession of Prevesa and of the country between the present frontier of Greece and the basin of the Kalamas had been settled by the terms of the Protocol itself, and was not, therefore, under consideration by the Conference.

From this, and my knowledge of the Turks, I think it quite possible that the question is not fully understood by the authorities at Constantinople, nor by the Sultan himself.

I ventured to say to his Excellency that whatever the decision of the Powers might be, it is in the interest of Turkey to accept it—

1. Because war to resist it would be suicidal.

2. Because Turkey cannot organize her internal administration and finances while occupied with questions of this nature, and unless she does so organize, ruin and destruction must come upon her.

3. Because she is weakened financially by the necessity of maintaining a considerable force on the Greek frontier during peace; and

4. In the event of war this necessity will operate, still more injuriously, similarly to what occurred during the late war, when a large portion of her troops were prevented from acting on the Danube by their detention in Bosnia and Herzegowina.

In all these arguments his Excellency concurred, and I left him under the impression that although the decision of the Conference would, under any circumstances, be most bitter to his feelings, he is open to conviction, if a reasonable time be given for the arguments to take effect.

His Excellency being a Turk, I conceived it was not improbable, although I am not over-sanguine, that similar arguments might prevail at Constantinople, but I venture to think that any demonstration whatever at the present moment, having the character of preparation on the part of Greece to enforce the decision of the Powers, can only render the cession by Turkey more difficult by giving it the appearance of a forced surrender instead of what the Congress desired, an amicable rectification of frontier in the interest of Turkey as well as of Greece.

Any such demonstration also is useless, because Greece, if left to her own efforts, must be speedily and hopelessly repressed by the Turks; and as one or more of the Powers will have to co-operate, if the execution is to be enforced by arms, any preparation had far better be deferred until Turkey has refused, and an ulterior decision been arrived at. Meanwhile, warlike preparations will most probably have the effect of stirring up the excitable elements throughout both countries, of causing bloodshed, and therefore imposing difficulties in the execution of the award which will almost certainly lead to war.

In the interest of peace, therefore, I venture to think that any demonstration whatever by Greece or by any other Power is to be deprecated until a reasonable time has elapsed to permit of the grave issues at stake being maturely weighed by the Sultan and his Government.

With regard to the idea of a demonstration by a force of 20,000 Russians lent for the purpose, and to be transported in British ships to Greece, I would venture to make the following remarks:—

This force must come either from the Baltic or Black Sea provinces; if the latter, it will have to pass the Bosphorus and Dardanelles, and the question will arise whether Turkey will permit the British transports to go through the Straits to the Black Sea in quest of Russian troops, and, if she does, whether she will allow them to come down again laden with troops.

It would certainly not be judicious to attempt such a proceeding without convoy, and it is not difficult to conceive that if Her Majesty's ships were allowed to go into the Black Sea peaceably, which can scarcely be expected, the Russian troops would, in all probability, be insulted, and, perhaps, fired upon, by some fanatics on their way down through the port of Constantinople, when they would be compelled to land, and Her Majesty's ships to cover their landing, and we should find ourselves in the position of aiding the Russians to seize Constantinople. If this were to happen, we might find it very difficult to get them out again. There can be no doubt that any attempt to bring Russian troops from the Black Sea provinces would be fraught with danger, and

would probably not lead to the accomplishment of the desired object of giving direct support to the Greeks in Thessaly and Epirus.

The other alternative of bringing a Russian force from the Baltic would be a long, tedious, and costly operation; if war supervened, 20,000 men would be insufficient to bring it to a successful close, and other forces would have to be set in motion. These might be composed of Russo-Bulgarian or Russian troops in the Balkan Peninsula, or of Russian troops from the Caucasus, or possibly an advance might be made from both sides at once.

Either operation, however, points to war on a large scale, in which Russia will take a leading part, for which she will seek a corresponding compensation.

It is not for me to express an opinion whether or not, in the event of Turkey rejecting the award of the Powers, it should be enforced in this or any other way. I would merely point out what would appear to be the inevitable consequence of adopting the Russian proposal with a view to proving the advisability of a strong effort being made to obtain the acceptance of the award by the Porte before deciding upon it, or upon any other means of enforcing the award.

If, on the other hand, the Porte can be induced to accept the award, a convention would appear to be necessary to prevent confusion and disorder, by regulating the withdrawal of the Turkish garrisons from the ceded territory and its occupation by the Greeks, an operation which, considering the extent of country, cannot be effected without due deliberation and some delay.

Meanwhile, it might be well to urge upon both Powers the responsibility which will attach to them if by any measures they may take calculated to cause excitement on their frontiers disturbances should occur, which may not only be the means of devastating the country, but require military operations to repress them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS.

No. 51.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 4.)

(No. 72. Confidential.) *Berlin, July 1, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 67, Confidential, of the 29th ultimo, my French colleague tells me confidentially that he does not think the French Government would be favourable to the application of the principle of pecuniary compensation for the present rectification of the Greek frontier, because the Powers will probably expect Greece to take her share of the Ottoman debt, in accordance with the principles laid down in the Treaty of Berlin, and the financial condition of Greece would scarcely admit of additional charges besides.

His Excellency has meanwhile referred the subject to Paris.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 52.

M. de Giers to Prince Lobanow.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Prince Lobanow, July 4.)

(Télégraphique.) *St. Pétersbourg, le 2 juillet 1880.*

LE bruit d'une prétendue offre de troupes que nous aurions faite à l'Angleterre, ayant produit une fâcheuse impression sur différents Cabinets, et principalement à Constantinople, l'Empereur vous charge de dire à Lord Granville que nous n'avons jamais songé à faire une pareille offre, et que nous n'avons aucune intention de nous séparer des autres Cabinets dans l'examen des mesures éventuelles d'exécution. Nous pensons qu'il importe, avant tout, d'attendre la réponse de la Porte à la notification des décisions de la Conférence.

No. 53.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 5.*)

(No. 268.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, June 22, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a note from M. de Giers, stating that the Russian Government entirely concur in the proposed rejoinder to the reply of the Porte with regard to the identic note addressed to it on the subject of the Greek frontier question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 53.

M. de Giers to the Earl of Dufferin.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{7}{19}$ Juin*, 1880.

EN réponse à la note que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser en date du $\frac{2}{14}$ Juin, et par laquelle elle m'a communiquée le point de vue du Gouvernement Anglais quant à la réponse que les Grandes Puissances pourraient faire à la dernière note du Gouvernement Ottoman, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que le Cabinet Impérial adhère entièrement à cette manière de voir, et que d'ordre de Sa Majesté l'Empereur je viens d'engager M. Novikow à s'entendre avec M. Goschen et ses autres collègues en vue de la réponse identique qu'ils auront à adresser à la Porte.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) GIERS.

No. 54.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 5.*)

(No. 270.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, June 24, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a note which I addressed to M. de Giers on the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 193 A, informing his Excellency of the reasons which have induced Her Majesty's Government to come to the conclusion that it would be advisable to delay making a rejoinder to the Porte's reply to the identic note on the Greek frontier question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 54.

The Earl of Dufferin to M. de Giers.

M. le Secrétaire d'Etat, *St. Petersburgh, June $\frac{5}{17}$*, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to state, with reference to my note of the $\frac{2}{14}$th instant, and to your Excellency's reply, dated the following day, that Her Majesty's Government consider it would be advisable to suspend for the present the proposed rejoinder to the Sublime Porte's reply to the identic note on the Greek frontier question.

Her Majesty's Government have come to this conclusion in consequence of some of the Powers, whilst they substantially agree in the language to be used, being of opinion that it is desirable to delay replying to the Porte until it can be confronted with the unanimous decision of the Conference at Berlin. By this means the Turkish Government will be deprived of the opportunity of raising a controversy during the session of the Conference.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 55.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 5.*)

(No. 280.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July 1, 1880.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 103 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose a despatch, from Lieutenant Colonel Villiers, reporting on the state of the fortifications of Batoum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 55.

Lieutenant-Colonel Villiers to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July 1, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that when I visited Batoum some three weeks ago, there were no fortifications there except a few earthworks left by the Turks. These batteries would require considerable alteration before modern Russian artillery could be mounted in them; and no attempt had been made, up to the moment of my departure, to carry out these changes. I may further add, that when calling on Count Miliutine three days ago to announce my return from the Black Sea, I asked him whether it was the intention of the Russian Government to fortify Batoum in any way: he answered that there was no such intention.

Batoum is a natural bay of considerable extent, running, roughly speaking, in an east south-easterly direction from the sea. Of this basin the side next to Asia Minor is comparatively deep, the water gradually shoaling towards the northern shore. The consequence is, that the wharfs and landing stages will be constructed, at any rate at first, on the southern side of the bay. It is, therefore, natural that the terminus of the railway should also be on this side, and in order that the line may ultimately connect with the Tiflis-Poti one, it must be carried along the back of the town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE VILLIERS.

No. 56.

Petition from the Turks in Bulgaria.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, July 5.*)

(Traduction.)

LORS de l'invasion en Bulgarie des troupes Impériales Russes, les populations Musulmanes durent émigrer en masse pour se soustraire à l'animosité trop évidente des Bulgares. Dans cette fuite précipitée, que la marche rapide de l'ennemi a nécessitée, ces malheureux eurent à peine le temps de ramasser à la hâte les objets de valeur se trouvant sous leurs mains, abandonnant à la discrétion des Bulgares tous leurs biens, meubles et immeubles.

Disséminés sur diverses parties de l'Empire Ottoman, nous attendîmes avec autant d'impatience que d'anxiété, la fin de cette malheureuse guerre pour connaître le sort qui serait réservé à nos biens en Bulgarie, constituant toute notre fortune. Enfin la paix fut conclue, et le Traité de Berlin signé.

Notre joie et notre reconnaissance fut sans bornes à la lecture des décisions prises au Congrès, et nous adressâmes à Dieu Tout-Puissant de ferventes prières pour bénir l'Europe entière, qui, dans sa haute justice et sa pitié toute paternelle, avait mis, dans le Traité, des Articles spéciaux, pour que tous nos biens en Bulgarie nous fussent restitués; empêchant ainsi la ruine d'une population malheureuse déjà rudement éprouvée.

Nous basant donc sur le Traité de Berlin, nous nous empressâmes de retourner en Bulgarie pour rentrer en possession de ce que nous y avions laissé. Une grande déception nous y attendait; les Bulgares n'ayant pas pour nous les mêmes sentiments généreux que les Puissances Signataires, usèrent du pouvoir et de la liberté qu'on venait de leur donner, pour nous faire subir tant de misères et d'injustices. Mais ce qui nous a le plus profondément blessé, dans nos sentiments les plus chers, fut de voir quelques-unes de nos Mosquées détruites, les pierres sépulcrales de nos cimetières enlevées, servant de pavage aux rues, de bornes aux fontaines, de cadres aux bassins, et de marchepieds dans

quelques maisons de hauts fonctionnaires. Enfin nos Tékés ("caveaux des saints") convertis en tavernes. S'il fallait citer tous les actes d'injustice, d'arbitraire, de violence même dont nous sommes victimes, un volume ne suffirait pas; nous nous bornons donc à ne faire connaître que l'ensemble de nos griefs.

Sitôt notre départ, les Bulgares envahirent nos maisons et emportèrent tout ce qu'elles contenaient; en même temps les paysans, dans les campagnes, vidaient nos granges, dévalisaient nos fermes, et vendaient nos bestiaux.

Les Généraux Russes, pour faire cesser l'anarchie qui régnait, formèrent une autorité civile provisoire, choisie parmi les Notables ("Tchorbadjis") afin de rétablir l'ordre. Ces Notables, sitôt nommés, se constituèrent en Société, ayant pour objet de profiter du pouvoir qu'on leur avait confié pour s'enrichir à nos dépens.

La première opération de l'autorité fut la démolition de nos maisons. Elle fit disparaître des quartiers entiers: 1,500 maisons furent détruites sur ces ordres, et les matériaux produits par cette démolition vendus à son profit.

Même destruction fut ordonnée dans les campagnes: 150 fermes, tous nos moulins, en un mot, toutes nos constructions furent rasées. L'autorité provisoire n'arrêta ses ravages, si lucratifs pour elle, qu'à l'arrivée de nouvelles troupes qui eurent de la peine à se loger.

Les Russes arrivèrent à Andrinople et les opérations militaires cessèrent; des Gouverneurs Russes furent nommés provisoirement; les Notables furent forcés de soumettre leurs décisions au nouveau Gouverneur avant de les exécuter; mais ce fut un bien faible obstacle au but qu'ils poursuivaient; la suite le prouvera.

Ils proposèrent et obtinrent de vendre pour l'année courante aux enchères publiques, les récoltes de nos champs, et de louer nos fermes pour deux ans, et ce afin que ces récoltes qui s'annonçaient très-belles ne fussent pas gaspillées par les paysans, et pour nous en conserver le produit de la vente. Ces enchères eurent lieu, mais on n'en prévint qu'un certain nombre de gens qui devaient y concourir pour compte des Notables, pour sauver les apparences aux yeux du Gouverneur. Ainsi acheteurs et vendeurs étaient les mêmes personnes; nos récoltes furent adjugées pour un dixième de la valeur des ensemencements et nos fermes louées à vil prix. De cette vente et de cette location jamais un sou ne nous fut donné.

Après la vente de nos récoltes, ils obtinrent celle de nos maisons, toujours aux enchères publiques et pour notre compte. Cette fois la publication eut lieu; mais les Samedis furent désignés pour ces enchères, afin qu'aucun Israélite, formant une population riche et nombreuse, ne puisse y prendre part; un ingénieur Français s'y présenta, mais les Bulgares ne voulurent l'accepter qu'à la condition qu'il aurait un garant Bulgare, accepté par eux. Il en trouva plusieurs que l'autorité refusa.

La vente de nos maisons fut partagée en trois catégories: Les plus belles maisons furent adjugées au Gouvernement pour écoles et autres besoins d'État; les secondes devinrent la proie des gouverneurs et des employés; les troisièmes enfin réservées aux militaires. Plus de 500 maisons furent ainsi vendues pour le 10 pour cent de la valeur réelle.

Depuis notre retour nous avons réclamé nos maisons; il nous fut répondu qu'on ne pouvait nous les rendre, mais qu'on nous en paierait le montant au prix de la vente, après déduction des frais de réparations qu'il plaira à l'acquéreur de présenter et 20 pour cent sur le montant de la vente que la Municipalité s'alloue pour ses bons offices. Quelques-uns d'entre nous, désireux d'en finir, acceptèrent les prétentions de l'autorité provisoire, pensant ainsi prendre leur argent et pouvoir s'en aller; depuis un an ces malheureux ne peuvent obtenir le paiement qui leur est dû, malgré que la Municipalité en a reçu le montant depuis deux ans. Pour ceux de nos immeubles qui ont eu la chance de ne convenir à aucun fonctionnaire, on veut bien nous les restituer; mais on exige tant de conditions que bien peu d'entre nous ont pu, jusqu'ici, être reconnu officiellement propriétaire; et nos hans (hôtels), bains, magasins sont toujours loués par la Municipalité, et pour son compte, malgré notre présence, nos protestations, et nos réclamations.

Quant à nos fermes, nous ne pouvons encore ni en être reconnus propriétaires, ni les vendre; parce que le Gouvernement a fait un règlement par lequel les villageois seuls peuvent acheter une ferme entière, les citadins et les étrangers ne peuvent acquérir que 25 deumums (22,000 mètres carrés). Les villageois forts de ce règlement ne nous font aucune offre, et à l'instigation du Gouvernement, cherchent par leurs tracasseries à nous fatiguer pour leur offrir nos terres à quelque prix que ce soit; tantôt, c'est un très-gros lot de terre qu'ils réclament, tantôt le plus grand et le meilleur pâturage comme leurs ayant appartenu autrefois. Ces réclamations basées sur le dire seul de quelques paysans, contre des titres parfaitement en règle que nous présentons, sont complaisamment écoutées par le Gouvernement, qui ne peut pourtant pas nous en déposséder, mais qui en profite pour ajourner la restitution de nos fermes, et continuer à les louer à son profit.

Après l'exposé qui précède, nous devons ajouter: que nous avons fait toutes les démarches, et répondu à toutes les exigences du Gouvernement, sans pouvoir arriver à un résultat. Que nous avons adressé prières et requêtes à Son Altesse le Prince, qui, malgré sa bonne volonté, n'a réussi qu'à de rares occasions à nous faire rendre justice. Que nous avons imploré tous les Ministres, présents et passés, sans aboutir; et qu'enfin nous avons intercédé auprès des Consuls-Généraux, qui, malgré leurs efforts officieux, n'ont pu rien obtenir pour nous.

Désespérés, ruinés, subissant tous les jours de nouveaux affronts et de nouvelles déceptions, nous venons implorer l'appui, la justice, et la pitié de l'Europe, protectrice des malheureux, et demander s'il y a espoir pour nous de voir, par une Commission Européenne, les Articles du Traité de Berlin qui nous concernent être mis en exécution, ou bien si nous devons abandonner tous nos biens aux Bulgares, et aller mendier notre pain, car réellement c'est là où nous en serons réduits.

Sophia, le $\frac{13}{25}$ *Juin*, 1880.

No. 57.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 5, 8 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, July* 4, 1880, 3·50 P.M.

FOLLOWING to Mr. Goschen, under No. 31:—

"Information conveyed in your telegram of yesterday has been publicly confirmed by Vali and a Havas telegram from Constantinople.

"It is not at all probable that April Convention can be carried out without coercion of Roman Catholic tribes, and the attempt of the Porte to execute it will resolve question here into a struggle between Mussulmans and Christians. From confidential information I have reason to believe that if the Porte would promise a certain degree of self-government the North Albanians would gladly elect to allow transfer of Dulcigno to Montenegro, knowing that the cessions of the Convention would render the future formation of an autonomous North Albania impossible.

"(Sent to Foreign Office.)"

No. 58.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 5, 8 A.M.)

(No. 21.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, July* 4, 1880, 8 P.M.

FIFTH sitting of Commission yesterday. Progress made up to Article 35.

No. 59.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 5, 8 A.M.)

(No. 99.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 4, 1880, 5 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 97 and your telegram No. 214, my belief is that Turkish authorities have at last become conscious that it is highly to their interest to carry out April arrangement at once. A change has certainly taken place, and if an ultimatum were presented that if they have not carried out the April cession in three weeks Dulcigno would be forcibly given to Montenegro, I believe that the cession would be made. I presume, after the late summons to the Porte to carry out April arrangement, unless Dulcigno plan were accepted, previous notice must be given to the Porte before it is informed that Dulcigno will be seized.

Probably the Porte will reply in a day or two [group omitted]-ing our last note, stating that [two groups unintelligible] and detailing the steps taken. To that the Powers might reply—"Unless Commissioner is in possession of the ceded districts within days, Montenegro will help itself to Dulcigno with our assistance." Though I understand Her Majesty's Government to much prefer the Dulcigno solution, I do not see how it can be imposed by force if the April cession is even now carried out.

No. 60.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 5, 6 P.M.)

(No. 100.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 5, 1880, 1·15 P.M.*

FOLLOWING sent to Mr. Green, dated to-day:—

"With reference to last paragraph of your telegram No. 31 of the 4th instant, it is useless to proceed on belief that Porte would accept your proposal, except under absolute compulsion. They believe that arrangement is assistance to League, and better for Montenegro than the Corti arrangement, a view held in many quarters. You have throughout spoken of chances of Albanians and Montenegrins accepting or rejecting, but it was clear from the first that the Porte would reject unless coerced. There are no arguments except the greater practicable to put before them, and now they prefer to try to make the Corti cession practicable. It is by no means certain that the cession of the Convention would render future formation of an autonomous North Albania impossible; but if it were certain, it would only be an additional incentive to the Porte to prefer it to the Dulcigno plan. It is lost time to act on the [? basis] that Turkey will take steps by promises to the [group omitted] or otherwise to transfer Dulcigno. They are thoroughly opposed to it, and if it is to take the place of the Corti cession, force alone will do it."

No. 61.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 94.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 5, 1880.*

A TELEGRAM to Count Károlyi is being prepared conveying the consent of the Austrian Government to your Lordship's proposal for a naval demonstration, but indicating various points upon which an understanding should be come to before it is resolved upon. Baron Haymerle would prefer that the demonstration should be confined to English and Austrian ships, but if this cannot be, he would like all the Powers to join in it.

He also considers that if the Powers were to invite the Prince of Montenegro to seize the district of Dulcigno, they would be inconveniently [? bound] to take further measures if his attempt proved unsuccessful. His Excellency is therefore inclined to think that it would be better only to intimate to the Prince that if he undertakes the attack he will be countenanced by an allied squadron on the coast.

No. 62.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 227.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 5, 1880, 5·40 P.M.*

CORBETT reports, July 3, that M. Tricoupi sends same day by post to King, for signature, one Proclamation for gradual calling out of reserves and mobilization of army, and another for usual convocation of Chamber in September, when mobilization Decree will be communicated. King to be prepared beforehand by telegraph for these communications.

See M. de Freycinet, and say that Her Majesty's Government consider that such steps will be premature, at all events before answer of the Porte has been received and considered by the Powers. It would make Turks more unwilling to yield, it would excite Turks and Greeks on the frontier, and it would not intimidate the Turks, who are afraid of what Europe may do, and not of what may be done by Greece.

Tell French Government that I propose to telegraph in this sense to Mr. Corbett.

No. 63.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 67.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 5, 1880.*

I HAVE to thank you for the clear and able statement of your views with regard to the Montenegrin frontier and the Albanian question, which is contained in your despatch No. 128, Political, of the 29th May.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 64.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 68.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 5, 1880.*

YOUR despatch No. 130, Political, of the 1st ultimo, has been received, and Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the explanations you made to the Prince of Montenegro of your reasons for considering that under existing circumstances it was advisable that you should proceed to Scutari instead of remaining at Cettinjé.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 65.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 69.)
Sir. *Foreign Office, July 5, 1880.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 146, Political, of the 13th ultimo, inclosing copies of the letter and confidential note you had, at the request of Prince Nicholas, addressed to his Minister for Foreign Affairs, describing the line of frontier which it is proposed to assign to Montenegro in lieu of the one laid down in the memorandum of the 18th April; and I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve the communications you made to the Montenegrin Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 66.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 71.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 5, 1880.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 144 of the 11th ultimo, describing the manner in which you submitted to the Prince of Montenegro the project for a modified cession of territory to the Principality in lieu of the one agreed upon in the memorandum signed at Constantinople on the 18th April, and I have to acquaint you that your proceedings as reported in this despatch meet with the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 67.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 72.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 5, 1880.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 151 of the 15th instant, and I have to acquaint you that the steps you took to obtain the acceptance by the Prince of Montenegro of the proposals you had been instructed to make to him for a modified cession of territory are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

With regard to the note from the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs, of

which you forward a copy, and in which the consent of the Prince to the proposal is made subject to certain conditions, I have to instruct you to draw up a reply in concert with your Austrian colleague, setting forth the views of Her Majesty's Government and of that of Austria-Hungary, which are recorded in my despatch to you No. 63 of the 23rd ultimo, with regard to the guarantee which the Prince requires for the carrying out of the proposed cession, the question of the compensation to which he considers himself entitled, and the stipulation respecting the destruction of the Turkish fortifications on the frontier to the east of the Lake of Scutari, and on the territory which had been assigned to Montenegro by the memorandum of the 18th April.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 68.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 21.)
Foreign Office, July 5, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 7 of the 14th instant, stating that it was the intention of the Austrian Second Commissioner on the Montenegrin Boundary Commission to proceed, in company with a Montenegrin official, to mark out the line between the sea and the River Tara, the details having been settled between their two Governments, and that the line when completed would be submitted to the Commission for confirmation, but that this would be a mere formality.

The Turkish Commissioner has stated that if the frontier be thus settled without consulting him he must raise an objection to the arrangement, though he has no intention to object to the actual demarkation.

I concur with you in considering that the Turkish Commissioner is right in his contention, and that it would be much to be regretted that by the neglect to procure his formal approval to the line between the points indicated, the risk should be incurred of the frontier not receiving the requisite international sanction.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 69.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 365.)
Foreign Office, July 5, 1880.

Sir,

COUNT KÁROLYI read to me to-day a telegram which he had received from Vienna, of which the following is the substance:—

Baron Haymerle had had an interview with Edhem Pasha on the 4th instant, when he earnestly advised him to endeavour to dispel any illusions which the Porte might entertain respecting the present situation. Turkey, his Excellency had said, must no longer count upon disagreement among the Powers, or believe that the Governments would permit their decisions respecting the Montenegrin and Greek questions to remain unexecuted. She should abandon her method of delay and tergiversation.

His Excellency had proceeded to discuss the Porte's answer to the identic note respecting the Montenegrin frontier. The Porte, he had said, seemed to him to have been throughout in the wrong. The difficulty as to the surrender of Gusinjé and Plava had been made a pretext for sending troops which, it seemed, were intended not to secure but to elude the execution of the Treaty. In the interest of the Porte the April settlement was then arranged. But it had not only not complied with that new engagement, but its agents had contributed to organize resistance to it. Committees for this purpose had been organized, contributions had been levied, and arms had been distributed, under their eyes; the Albanians had been supplied with the provisions they required, and without which they would have been compelled to disperse.

And now, when Europe was addressing a last appeal to the Porte, the reply of the latter consisted in a demand for an indefinite delay.

The Powers had been obliged to designate another means of compensation. It was in the interest of the Porte to accept that plan, and to loyally assist in its execution.

The Turkish Ministers ought to consider the danger that would result if the Powers became convinced that the Porte had no respect either for their pledges or for its own.

Edhem Pasha, who was said by Baron Haymerle to be personally in favour of the cession of Dulcigno, had promised to transmit his Excellency's remarks to Constantinople.

I expressed my satisfaction at hearing that Baron Haymerle had held this language to Edhem Pasha.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 70.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 837.)
Foreign Office, July 5, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that in a telegram, dated the 3rd instant, Mr. Corbett reports that M. Tricoupi was the same day sending by post to the King of Greece, who is now in this country, two Proclamations for His Majesty's signature. The object of one of these Proclamations was the gradual calling out of reserves and the mobilization of the army, and the second was for the ordinary convocation of the Chamber in the beginning of September next, on which occasion the mobilization decree would be communicated to that body.

It was further intended to prepare the King by telegraph for these measures, which were not supposed to be favourably viewed by His Majesty.

I have to request that your Excellency will seek an interview with M. de Freycinet, and in communicating to him the substance of Mr. Corbett's telegram, your Excellency will state that Her Majesty's Government consider that such measures as those above referred to would be premature, at any rate before the answer of the Porte to the decision of the Conference on the boundary question has been received, and been considered by the Powers who were represented in it.

Such a course as it appears is contemplated by the Greek Ministers would probably make the Porte more unwilling to yield to the verdict of the Powers; it would excite both the Turks and the Greeks on the frontier, whilst it would not have the effect of intimidating the Turks, who are inspired by a fear of the steps Europe may take rather than by what may be done by Greece.

Your Excellency will inform M. de Freycinet that Her Majesty's Government propose to telegraph in the above sense to Mr. Corbett at Athens.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 71.

Captain Sale, R.E., to Earl Granville.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 17. Political.)
6, *Abermarle Street, London, July 6, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report my arrival this day from Corfu in compliance with your Lordship's telegram of the 30th ultimo.

In compliance with your Lordship's previous telegram, I withdrew from Janina on Monday, the 28th ultimo, choosing the route by way of Arta, in order to see as much of the country as possible.

Though the shortness of my stay in Epirus has prevented my undertaking any technical work, no opportunity was lost of acquiring general information, and I venture to supplement my former despatches with some further remarks in the hope that they may prove of interest to your Lordship.

When in Epirus I was at some pains to ascertain to what extent and with what degree of preparedness the Christian population of that province were ready to fight for annexation to Greece; I ascertained from the most reliable sources that—

1. The Christian population are not armed, except to a trifling extent and with inferior weapons.
2. That they had no sort of organization, either open or secret, for military purposes.
3. That they would not rise unless they were quite sure of substantial external assistance.

The Christian population of Epirus did not appear to me to be at all a warlike race,

but if supplied with arms their great preponderance in numbers would probably enable them to account for the Mahommedans within the new frontier, always supposing that the Albanians north of the said frontier and the Turkish troops were otherwise disposed of.

The Christians, with much reason, dread an abortive attempt on the part of Greece to enter into possession of the newly-assigned territory.

If the Turkish troops and the Albanians as a whole really co-operate against the Greeks, it seems to me that they will be too strong for them, and may even turn the tables on them by an expedition into the present Greek territory.

The Albanians have, as I have heard, already discussed this possibility.

In the event of the Turkish troops assisting the Albanians, either openly or secretly, it appears to me that Epirus and Thessaly are by no means the points at which coercive measures should first be taken.

Should the Turks render no assistance to the Albanians, and should the Greeks and Christian Epirotes be thus left to face the Albanians of Middle and Southern Albania, the result would, I think, in a great measure depend on the degree to which the Albanians could organize themselves and act together.

If fairly organized they would, I think, be more than a match for the whole of the Greeks.

The Mahommedans of Epirus seemed to me to be, for the present, sincere in their declaration that they would fight to the last rather than yield to the Greeks. This hostility is extremely natural, even putting aside the question of Albanian nationality; as Mahommedans they desire to uphold their religion, and as proprietors of land they fear that, under a Greek Government, they would be sooner or later ousted from their properties.

I understand that assurances have been given by the Greek Government that their rights will be respected, but the Mahommedans place no reliance on the word of the Greeks, and, indeed, some unguarded remarks made by Christian Epirotes lead me to think that the desire and hope of getting possession of land now belonging to Mahommedans powerfully influences them in their wish to join Greece.

On the other hand, the Albanians north of the new frontier fear that, with the Greek extension, they, in their turn, will be subjected to Greek propaganda and intrigue, and therefore now look upon Southern Epirus as a sort of outlying defence of their own country.

We thus find, at present, national sentiment, religious feeling, and self-interest all pulling together and urging the Albanians to resist the cession of Southern Epirus to Greece.

I venture to suggest that a course might be taken which would make the last and perhaps the most powerful of these motives antagonistic to the other two.

The first step to attain this end would be to let the Albanians know, by a direct communication, that the decision taken by Europe is irrevocable, and that with or without their concurrence the annexation will be carried out.

Then the Mahommedan proprietors should be informed that if they opposed no resistance to the annexation their proprietary rights would be fully and amply guaranteed, not only by Greece, in whose guarantee, as before mentioned, they place no reliance whatever, but by the whole of Europe, and more especially by that Power in Europe in whose word and just dealing between Christian and Mahommedan they have the most confidence, and that this guarantee should be in such a tangible and effective form as not to leave them at the mercy of Greek lawyers and the abuse of legal processes in partial Courts.

They should be further informed that if they oppose annexation to Greece no care will be taken to guarantee their proprietary rights, and they will be tolerably certain to have their property confiscated.

By these means the Mahommedan landowners might be brought to see that their private interests would suffer heavily by their taking part in a resistance which must sooner or later collapse. This course might also have indirectly an influence on the Porte, as Abeddin Pasha, the present Turkish Secretary for Foreign Affairs, is himself one of the largest landowners in the neighbourhood of Prevesa and Arta, and would thus find himself affected in his private interests.

The Albanians north of the new frontier might perhaps be influenced by a guarantee against any further encroachment on Albanian territory in case they abstained from hostile action, coupled with the threat that if they attempted to resist the decision taken by Europe no such guarantee would be given, and a further extension of the frontier to the northward would not be improbable.

Any such communication made to the Albanians would probably be met with fresh

protestations that they would fight to the last and were prepared to die for their country, but not the less would they think over the communication, and when it had sunk into their minds it would have its effect as the moment for action came.

It would, I think, be quite possible to make this communication to the Albanian leaders, and I would venture to suggest that it might take the form of a response to the telegrams which I understand to have been addressed by the local Albanian Committees to your Lordship. But it would be desirable that the communication should be made verbally and directly to the parties concerned, and that in such a manner as to make them sure that they were being addressed by an authorized Agent of the British Government.

The communication should be made in good time and before any steps whatever for coercive measures are taken.

If this communication were to produce its desired effect, and the Turkish troops were to evacuate the ceded territory, I think that the Albanian hostile movement would be reduced to very small dimensions, more especially if the warning were emphasized by the subsequent presence of a fleet off the central Albanian coast, so as to give the Albanians of these parts a good excuse for stopping at home and looking after their own country.

The present Vali of Janina, Mustapha Azim Pasha, is a man of much intelligence and of moderate views; his private opinion is that the Turkish Government should give up the whole of Epirus and Thessaly rather than provoke a conflict, and I feel sure that any efforts to secure a peaceful solution would have his sympathy and even his aid in so far as his orders permit.

Though the Albanians, as a whole, are not given to fanaticism, there are plenty of fanatics in Janina and the Mahommedan towns, but even these might be influenced by the consideration that any rash action on their part would ensure the eventual destruction of their mosques and the utter uprooting of their religion from the annexed districts.

In any action taken with the Albanians it would be well, in my opinion, to avoid as much as possible the intervention of the Turkish authorities, for the whole of the efforts of the Palace and Foreign Minister appear to be directed towards inciting the Albanians to resistance.

During my stay in Janina I was careful to make the acquaintance of the leading men of both the national and religious parties of Albanians, Mahommedans and Christians, and could at any time resume relations with them if desired.

I would here remark that one of the most influential of the native Christian landowners of Epirus has just arrived in Paris. I have this gentleman's acquaintance, and am sure that he would do all in his power for the Greek cause. He is moderate in his views, of much influence in Epirus, and is thoroughly well acquainted with the country.

The town of Janina itself is not fortified, and, except for the remains of some earthworks said to have been made by the Venetians, the town itself is quite undefended, but there is a citadel built on the promontory which runs out from Janina into the lake. This citadel would be untenable against artillery, but could be held by Greek troops against any number of Albanians.

Of the three principal roads between Janina and the sea that by Arta is far the best; it was made as a carriage road, but has been allowed to fall into disrepair.

This road could, I think, be made good for guns in one day by the labour of 600 men, and could be made passable for ordinary wheeled vehicles by the labour of the same number of men for a week.

This road is much the shortest, as it is only twelve hours from Janina to Arta, and three and a-half hours from Arta to Salahora, the place of embarkation in the Ambracian Gulf. Moreover, this road is throughout provided with fortified guard-houses at the principal points. The road from Liyadih (a point opposite Corfu) to Janina appears in the map to be the shortest, but is not so in reality, as this road traverses the various ridges which for the most part run north and south. It is at least twenty hours in length, or five hours longer than that viâ Arta. Moreover, it is only fit for pack-horses, and there is at least one pass, that just east of Philiates, which would be very difficult from a military point of view.

The third road, that from Janina viâ Delvino to Santa Quaranta, a point on the coast somewhat north of Corfu, is said to be considerably longer than either the Arta or the Liyadih routes; it is better than the latter route and worse than the former, being only fit for pack animals.

Not having passed along it I cannot speak positively, but judging by the look of the mountain through which it passes, I should say that it was difficult and dangerous from a military point of view.

The town of Arta is not fortified, but there is an old mediæval castle or citadel in which I noticed that some guns were mounted.

As regards the Ambracian Gulf and its fitness for naval work, I was informed that it had only 10 feet of water at the entrance, but that any ship which could enter could go with ease up to Salahera, the port of Arta.

At Prevesa I noticed nothing of any importance in the way of defence; there was a rather mouldering and ruinous-looking rampart as a land defence, and the two insignificant-looking forts, one on either side of the entrance, as sea defences; but as I arrived late in the evening at Prevesa, and had to leave it early the following morning, I could only make the most superficial and cursory inspection. Moreover, I supposed that Her Majesty's Consul resident at Prevesa had already furnished the necessary information on this head.

As regards the military position and the strength of the Albanians, with their tribal divisions, I hope to furnish a further Report shortly.

Regarding the possibilities of the union of North and South Albania, I have not been able to ascertain that there has been or is likely to be any real concerted action, except, perhaps, such as may have been brought about by underhand influences from Constantinople.

Certain emissaries of the Northern League came down to Epirus in May last, and collected from the Mahommedans in that province and in Southern Albania something under 2,000*l.* as a contribution towards the action in the north; but I do not think that a man from the northern tribes would go south to help the Albanian Epirotes, or that the Southern Albanians would send men to help the north against Montenegro.

It is, however, somewhat hazardous to offer an opinion on this point.

The organization of any kind of autonomy for Albanians would be exceedingly difficult, on account, not only of the fierce independence of the northern tribes, but also of the practical impossibility of choosing any Ruler whom they would all—Mahommedans and Christians—consent to obey. Some sort of Federal Council would seem to be the only hope, but as long as the Turkish power lasts, and the present ideas of Mahommedan supremacy continue, it seems scarcely possible that the Albanians can really unite.

If Turkish troops and Turkish officials were all got rid of, the Albanians would not be slow to discover that their only chance would be to sink local differences and to unite as one race.

I would here remark to your Lordship that on several occasions when speaking to Albanians I have found that the idea of uniting with Greece on equal terms was by no means distasteful to them, as they quite admit their kinship to that country. What they so much object to is that a part of what they think their territory should be taken from them and handed over to Greece.

It has been an argument much used by the Albanians, that while Scutari is the capital of the Gaegs, or northern branch, Janina is the capital of the Toses, or southern branch. To ascertain the truth of this, I have inquired from Toses what they deemed to be their capital; some said Berat and others Delvino, but none mentioned Janina.

If a capital town were to be fixed on for the whole of Albania, Elbassan would seem from its position to be the most adapted for that purpose; but on this point I can offer but a very vague opinion to your Lordship.

I have ventured to offer these remarks to your Lordship in a somewhat crude and disjointed form, understanding it to be desired that no time should be lost in framing a more finished form of Report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Commissioner.*

No. 72.

Prince Lobanow to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 6.)

Londres, le 5 *Juillet*, 1880.

M. le Comte,

D'ORDRE du Gouvernement Impérial j'ai l'honneur de transmettre ci-près à votre Excellence une déclaration confirmant les Actes de Délimitation élaborés jusqu'ici en vertu du Traité de Berlin.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) LOBANOW.

Inclosure in No. 72.

Memorandum.

LES Actes suivants, élaborés par les Commissions de Délimitation instituées en vertu du Traité de Berlin, savoir:—

1. L'Acte en date du 14 Août, 1879, fixant la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale;

2. L'Acte en date du 20 Septembre, 1879, fixant: (*a*) La frontière Danubienne de la Bulgarie; (*b*) la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Turquie (Macédoine); (*c*) la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Serbie, et enfin—

3. L'Acte descriptif de la nouvelle frontière de Serbie, en date du 19 Août, 1879.

Ayant été examinés par les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin et trouvés conformes aux dispositions de ce Traité;

Et les Puissances étant convenues de prononcer la sanction de ces Actes au moyen d'un échange des notes entre les Cabinets;

Le Soussigné, Gérant du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de Russie, a l'honneur de déclarer par la présente que le Gouvernement Impérial confirme et sanctionne les Actes énumérés ci-dessus.

Le Gérant du Ministère Impérial des
Affaires Etrangères de Russie,
(Signé) GIERS.

St. Pétersbourg, le 16 *Juin*, 1880.

No. 73.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 6, 8 A.M.)

(No. 105.) *St. Petersburgh, July* 5, 1880, 9 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE read your despatch No. 272 of 21st June to M. de Giers. In return he read to me Prince Labanoff's on the same subject, whose report of the conversation quite coincided with your own.

M. de Giers seemed much annoyed at the misapprehension which had been propagated about Europe [*sic*] in regard to the nature of Prince Labanoff's communication, and said it was the Russian Ambassador who had originated the report of Russians having formally offered 20,000 men to England. He admits that your despatch has done Prince Labanoff every justice.

No. 74.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 6, 11 A.M.)

(No. 87.) *Scutari, July* 5, 1880, 9·30 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

INFORMATION having reached this yesterday from Constantinople of Turkish Commissioners having left for Scutari to persuade Albanians to permit territorial cessions of the April Convention, a written notice has this afternoon been sent by the Committee to the Vali that the Commissioners will not be allowed to disembark. I believe that Vali approves secretly of this measure.

Committee has further decided to bring 300 mountaineers into Scutari to [group wrong] them as as an executive force.

The feeling is increasing in favour of trusting to the Powers for a just settlement of present difficulties.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 75.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 9. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, July 6, 1880.*

GREEK Government have received information that active measures are being taken by the Porte to excite and encourage Albanians to resist cession of territory to Greece.

M. Tricoupi has read to me a confidential address of Abeddin Pasha to Albanian League, copy of which was obtained secretly from Sultan's Palace, encouraging it to oppose any part of their Albania being given up to foreigners.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 76.

*Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.**

(No. 221.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 6, 1880.*

WITH reference to my telegram to Mr. Goschen No. 217, Confidutial, of to-day, respecting the Montenegrin Frontier question, which has been repeated to you to-day, I have been informed by Count Károlyi that he considers his Government will probably concur in this proposal. You are therefore authorized to sound the Government to which you are accredited upon it.

No. 77.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received July 6, 1·4 P.M.)

(No. 40.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, July 6, 1880, 11·8 A.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 227.

French Minister for Foreign Affairs will send by telegraph to the French Chargé d'Affaires at Athens the same instruction as your Lordship proposes to telegraph to Mr. Corbett.

No. 78.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 217. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 6, 1880, 1·15 P.M.*

I TOLD Count Károlyi yesterday afternoon that I thought it would be desirable that the British and Austrian Governments should tell the Porte that it is impossible to allow the system of delay to be repeated in regard to the Montenegro frontier; that they have heard that the Porte is sending 6,000 men, and money, and that they assume that, notwithstanding the previous declarations of the impossibility of the operation, the Porte considers this sufficient to enable it to execute the April arrangement.

Her Majesty's Government believe that it would be more in the interest of the Porte at once to carry out the Dulcigno proposal, and they strongly recommend them to do so, as that which would be most advantageous to all parties. If, however, the Turkish Government should adhere to the arrangement to which they are pledged, they must understand that unless the Porte can carry out the April agreement within three weeks from the date of the receipt of a simultaneous communication from the Ambassadors, the Porte will be expected to join England and Austria and other Powers in assisting the Prince of Montenegro to take possession by force of the Dulcigno district under the alternative plan.

I have asked Count Károlyi if he will ascertain whether his Government concur in this, and will instruct their Ambassador accordingly.

If Austria consents, I will immediately apply to the other Powers for their concurrence.

* Also to Lord Lyons (No. 265), Sir A. Paget (No. 263), Sir H. Elliot (No. 283), and the Earl of Dufferin (No. 298).

Since seeing Count Károlyi I have received your telegram No. 00 of yesterday, which there was much difficulty and delay in decyphering, and find that a similar plan has suggested itself to you.

No. 79.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 220.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 6, 1880, 5·15 P.M.*

YOU will have seen from my despatch No. 272 to Lord Dufferin, of which a copy was sent to you on the 24th ultimo, that Prince Labanoff made a personal suggestion that Russia would be ready to furnish troops. I attached little importance to this suggestion at the time, and declined to enter into a conversation upon it.

I have since been informed by him that his Government has taken exception to his suggestion, as he was not instructed to make it. Austrian and German Governments have been asking Russian Government what it meant.

No. 80.

*Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.**

(No. 261.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 6, 1880, 4·25 P.M.*

ASK Government to which you are accredited if they see any objection to the presentation to Parliament of the identic note addressed to the Porte on the 12th ultimo.

No. 81.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received July 6, 8 P.M.)

Corfu, July 6, 1880, 6·45 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

I AM informed on good authority that a messenger from the Turkish [group wrong; ? Government] to the Albanians is here [two groups unintelligible], to say that the Sultan hopes they will all [group wrong; ? unite], as he would rather lose his throne than one inch of Albania.

No. 82.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 208. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, July 6, 1880.

Sir,

IN the course of conversation with Count Károlyi yesterday afternoon I stated to his Excellency that it would, in my opinion, be desirable that a joint communication should be made to the Porte by the Austrian Government and by Her Majesty's Government, to the effect that they could not allow the system of delay pursued by Turkey in regard to other questions arising out of the Treaty of Berlin to be repeated in regard to the cession of territory to Montenegro. The communication should state that the two Governments have been informed that the Porte is sending 6,000 men and some money to North Albania, and they therefore assume that, notwithstanding the previous declarations made at Constantinople of the impossibility of carrying into effect the arrangement agreed to on the 18th April, the Porte considers this sufficient to ensure its execution. The two Governments believe that it would now be more in the interest of the Porte at once to carry out the Dulcigno proposal than the April arrangement, and they strongly recommend it to take this step as the one which would be most advantageous to all parties concerned. If, however, the Turkish Government should adhere to the April arrangement to which they are pledged, they must understand that, unless the Porte can carry it into effect within three weeks from the date of the receipt of a simultaneous communication from the Ambassadors, the Porte will be expected to join England and Austria and other Powers in

* Similar telegram to Her Majesty's Representatives at Berlin (No. 217), Vienna (No. 280), St. Petersburgh (No. 295), and Rome (No. 259).

assisting the Prince of Montenegro to take possession by force of the Dulcigno district under the alternative plan.

I asked Count Károlyi to ascertain whether his Government would concur in this proposal, and would give instructions accordingly to their Ambassador. I added that if Austria consented I would immediately apply to the other Signatory Powers for their concurrence.

Your telegram of yesterday, which reached me after I had made this communication to Count Károlyi, shows that a similar plan had suggested itself to you.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 83.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 213.)
Foreign Office, July 6, 1880.

Sir,

YOU will have learnt from my despatch to Lord Dufferin (No. 272), of which I sent your Excellency a copy on the 24th ultimo, that the Russian Ambassador made a personal suggestion that Russia would be ready to furnish troops to carry out the decisions of the Powers.

I did not attach much importance to this suggestion at the time it was made, and I declined to enter into any discussion upon it; and I have since been informed by Prince Lobanow that his Government has taken exception to his suggestion, as he was not instructed to put forward such a proposal.

I understand that the Austro-Hungarian and German Governments have asked for explanations as to the intentions attributed to the Russian Government by Prince Lobanow.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 84.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.**

(No. 288. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, July 6, 1880.

My Lord,

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's confidential information, a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,† relative to a suggestion which I made yesterday to the Austrian Ambassador for a joint communication to be made to the Porte by England and Austria in regard to the Montenegro frontier question.

I have been informed by Count Károlyi that he considers it probable that his Government will agree to my proposal, and I therefore authorize you to sound the Russian Government as to whether they would be prepared to concur in it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 85.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 163. Political.)
Scutari, June 20, 1880.

My Lord,

AS some of the newspaper correspondents who are here have, I believe, been telegraphing home that the Turkish authorities are in the most perfect and complete exercise of their duties, I think it right to report to your Lordship that yesterday at midday the Albanian Committee sent a body of about five-and-twenty armed men, headed by the Moukhtar of the Roman Catholic community, to the house of M. Filippo Bianchi,

* Also to Lord Odo Russell, Lord Lyons, Sir A. Paget, and Sir H. Elliot.
† No. 82.

one of the most wealthy of the native Christian merchants of Scutari, and enforced the payment of 70 Turkish liras, the sum which the Committee had adjudged was due from him to the national fund.

M. Bianchi was informed that the armed men would not leave his house until he had paid, and that if he delayed complying with the demand for another day the sum would be doubled.

The Ottoman authorities may claim to be exercising their functions if they admit that the action described was taken under their orders, but not otherwise, as they cannot possibly pretend ignorance of the proceeding of the Albanian Committee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 86.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Earl Granville.—(Received July 7.)

E

(No. 167. Political.)
Scutari, June 22, 1880.

My Lord,

SO much use appears to be made of the term "Albanian League," that I venture to explain to your Lordship that nothing having the real organization of a League exists in Albania.

Shortly after the publication of the Treaty of San Stefano the districts of Gusinjé, Ipek, and Jacova, and, generally, the Vilayet of Kossovo, formed a resolution to resist any foreign encroachments on their territories, and an invitation to join them in this sense was made to the Roman Catholic mountaineers of North Albania, which was accepted in a general but not precise manner.

As soon as it was felt that the Treaty of San Stefano was not a definitive arrangement, the Albanian League, as indicated above, was allowed to pass from memory, and it was only on the eve of the meeting of the Congress of Berlin that Hussein Pasha, the then Governor-General of Scutari, conceived the idea of recalling it to life for the purpose of opposing the retention by Montenegro of Dulcigno, Antivari, and the district of Kraina, which the Principality had taken by force of arms during the war.

The activity and intelligence of Hussein Pasha quickly encouraged Nazif Pasha, the Vali of Kossovo, to adopt the same tactics in his province in order to oppose the enlargement of Servia, and a sort of Chamber of Deputies was called together at Prisrend, where Representatives, who were principally nominees and employés of the Governors-General, assembled for a short time.

Nothing was expected from or done by this Assembly until the time came for the sacrifice of Mehemet Ali Pasha. The League was the screen behind which the Porte's high functionaries in these regions were able to deliver the blow by which Europe was to be terrorized; but as soon as the deed was done the League dissolved, and enabled the Porte to express inability to punish the guilty, as, it asserted, the act was that of a whole population and not of a political body.

When later pressure began to be felt for the surrender of Spuz and Podgoritza, the League suddenly seemed to revive in Scutari. Hussein Pasha saw it in everything, and the Consular Representatives here had to submit to hear of it as a thing more or less powerful and terrible in proportion as the evacuation of the ceded towns became more or less imminent.

At the closing scenes of this act my Austrian colleague and I had frequently to face the self-styled representatives of the League and to listen to their threats; but when the Sultan was made aware that the Russians would remain in the vicinity of his capital until Spuz and Podgoritza were surrendered, the Albanian organization anew evaporated from view.

It again assumed consistency in the camp of Moukhtar Pasha when he was discussing with the Greek Delegates a possible extension of the Hellenic frontiers, but there the Albanian League was principally represented by people who had taken no part in the transactions of the north. There had been no compact passed between these Deputies and those of the former assembly; the only tie between them was that they were equally instruments of the Turkish Government. If any independent view existed, it might be that each Deputy would really consider the surrender of his own particular district as a disaster to be avoided, even at the cost of the sacrifice of all the other districts.

Moukhtar Pasha's retirement to Monastir enabled the Albanian League to disappear until the sudden orders from Constantinople to the General to proceed on a pretended

mission to enforce the delivery of Gusinjé-Plava to Montenegro made it once more necessary for the Albanian nationality to appear to check the ostensible wishes of the Porte, and the Pasha and a fresh assembly of the members of the League arrived almost simultaneously at Prisrend.

The knowledge gained by the Government nominated Delegates of the League of their power, or a misconception of the cue they had received, made Monkhtar Pasha resolve, after a short time, to evade single-handed the surrender of Gusinjé-Plava, and he, therefore, dissolved the native assembly without difficulty, although rumours had been heard that it had deliberated about autonomy, and even a foreign Prince.

When suddenly the report of negotiations for the exchange of the Gruda and Hotti tribes instead of Gusinjé-Plava began to gain ground, an enthusiasm arose in this vilayet for the defence of North Albanian territory which had been unknown here before. But it was not the work of a League. The Pasha and the Ottoman officials had long known what was coming, and had been working the usual machinery of their fictitious organization to help them to avoid, with decency, meeting the enforced engagements of the Porte. The successful resistance of Gusinjé, where a local enthusiasm had also repelled the Montenegrins, and the small weight apparently attached to the Christian districts, as implied by their cession for the ransoming of a Mahommedan one, were, however, the sufficient causes which kindled into a reality the feeling of pride in self-existence which had hitherto been only a dummy patriotism held up by alien Ottoman officials.

And, still, no Albanian League is working here in the European sense of such an association. The North Albanians have firmly determined to maintain their own, and have entered into solemn engagements, or "Besas," with each other for the purpose—the Roman Catholics trusting that they may attain autonomy—the Mahommedans half afraid that they will break the connection with the Sultan. They have elected and appointed a Committee, and control its acts from time to time by general and public meetings. They permit the presence here of the Ottoman authorities, as they know they secretly support their resistance against Montenegro; and they have sent emissaries to most other parts of Albania to collect funds, and to obtain engagements of assistance in case of need. The money has, in most cases, even from the southern parts of the province itself, not been forthcoming, whilst conditional promises of volunteers have been secured here and there.

The North-east Albanians (Kossovo Vilayet) have expressed great sympathy (the Mahommedans, as Mr. St. John reports, are persecuting fearfully their Christian fellow-countrymen), but have pointed out that they have Gusinjé to defend, and the Servian borders to watch. Dibra and Matia, two large districts adjoining the Scutari Vilayet, have offered contingents when hostilities actually commence. From the towns of Tirana and Elbassan, and those neighbourhoods, explanations have been asked as to the intention of Scutari, as they want self-government to be the sequel of their refusal to honour the Sultan's Treaty engagements. So again, when Janina and Epirus appealed to North Albania for a declaration to Europe that they will oppose all cessions to Greece, the Scutari Committee only consented to give a carefully constructed affirmation, that it will accept nothing but what has been decreed by the Treaty of Berlin, knowing full well that certain concessions will have to be carried out.

The Albanian League is, in fact, a high-sounding name, which has been used with considerable advantage and adroitness by the Porte, and has no strength or vitality but what is derived from the Government itself. The Albanian Committees are, on the contrary, existent, but they have never had the scope of working beyond their own limited spheres. At Gusinjé-Plava this has been proved, as well as here at Scutari, and when a surrender of territory has to be made to Greece, it will probably be seen that Epirus has also a Committee which can obstruct for a time whatever may have been decided by the Powers, and even loyally accepted by the Turkish Government; but there will not be a simultaneous uprising of all the fractions of the Albanian people, as has been foreshadowed by the term "Albanian League."

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 87.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 172. Political.)
Scutari, June 25, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE no doubt that an attempt will be made by the Turkish Government to prove the great difference between the value of the territories ceded to Montenegro through the Convention of the 12th April last and those comprised in the new proposal.

The difference is considerable, and gave me confidence when I was about to submit the proposal to Prince Nicholas that His Highness would not reject it.

In seeking compensation to the west of Lake Scutari for the Principality, the subterfuges and deceptions which had been so successful at Gusinjé Plava and at Tusi could not be considered as authorizing a diminution of advantages to be secured for the Principality, and the chief object to be kept in view was the possibility of a prompt and final settlement.

Also, the moment it was decided to turn aside from the frontier line of Gusinjé, and seek an exchange in this direction, no alternative remained but to award some district inhabited by Albanians.

This was accepted and acknowledged by the cessions of the Convention of the 12th April last. The North Albanians having, however, proved their determination to defend the territory thereby ceded, and it having been ascertained that to obtain the complete execution of the Convention the Turkish Government would have to be pressed to first subdue by military force a number of Roman Catholic tribes which it has hitherto only governed in a very superficial manner, the search for the necessary territorial compensation had to be made where the Ottoman power over Albanian districts is a reality.

The line of the new proposal is, in fact, the only one which remained open for discussion, and the difficulty experienced in persuading Prince Nicholas that it could not be extended (a difficulty recently met again by Mr. Goschen with the Russian Ambassador) shows clearly that the Turkish Government must either accept it, or proclaim that Montenegro is already in possession of all the territory which can be given up.

This, I have reason to surmise, is the conclusion which it is sought to force upon Europe of the Albano-Montenegrin question, not only by the Porte, but also by Russia and Italy. It is trusted that, when it is admitted that no compensation is obtainable on the Albanian side, it may be sought on that of the Herzegovine. The contemplation of the difficulties which an attempt at such a solution would bring upon Austria-Hungary has attractions for those who are not well-wishers of that Empire which it is unnecessary to describe.

Convinced, however, that the Turkish Government will ultimately have to surrender either the territory of the Convention or that of the new line, I fear the preference will be given by the Porte to the first, as it will set aside all strategic considerations and all care for the future welfare of North Albania to save a small town of Mussulman inhabitants from coming under Christian jurisdiction.

The cession of Dulcigno, and the line up to the entrance of the River Bojana, will in no way affect the compactness or strength of North Albania. It will, on the contrary, by stretching out the Montenegrin territory on the sea-coast, far away from the strongholds of the Black Mountaineers, weaken very considerably the neighbour with which North Albania has hitherto been almost constantly at war, and will make the Principality amenable, in some degree, to the influence of the maritime force of the Western Powers.

If Dulcigno is retained, it can only remain Albanian so long as peace lasts. The possession by the Montenegrins of the mountain ridges of Antivari and the Mercovich render them, militarily speaking, masters of all the lower heights, and which lead, step by step, to Dulcigno.

The incorporation of the Gruda and Hotti tribes with Montenegro would be the death-blow to the hope of a North Albanian autonomous province, and would be the commencement of an ambition with the Princes of Montenegro which would subject the unannexed Roman Catholic tribes to a series of struggles with their alienated brethren, who would naturally endeavour to bring them under the same Government as themselves.

Notwithstanding the apparent small importance of the Hotti and Gruda tribes on the map, they occupy a very important position in the North Albanian mountain organization, the Hotti being the premier clan of the Great Mountain, and, by traditional right, taking precedence of all other tribes in war and peace. These tribes also command many of the passes leading to the very important clan of the Clementi, and could isolate it from the

rest of Albania in case of war, besides being the holders of the only really defensible ground between Scutari and Podgoritza.

For these reasons, from a North Albanian point of view, it is of vital importance that the Roman Catholic tribes should remain intact, whilst the retraction of the frontier to the mouth of the River Bojana, and the loss of a small outlying town, would be more of an advantage than otherwise.

These opinions are not only mine, but those of every North Albanian who understands the inevitable necessity of a territorial sacrifice, and who is not swayed, in coming to a decision, by an overpowering Islamitic religious sentiment.

I have already had the honour of explaining to your Lordship in my despatch No. 128 of the 29th ultimo the facility with which the Turkish Government could secure the peaceable surrender of the new line proposed, if it will only consent to abandon its secret political tactics.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 88.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 176. Political.)

Scutari, June 27, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a project prepared by M. Lippich, the Austrian Consul-General here, of the kind of administrative organization which he believes would be suitable for the North Albanian tribes, and which he has been directed by Baron Haymerle to draw up, after consultation with me.

The only addition which I suggested to M. Lippich, and which he at once adopted, was the division of the mountains into four sub-districts, as, owing to their extent, it would have been hardly convenient for the mountaineers to be obliged to repair for minor affairs to the seat of administration of the Lieutenant-Governor of the mountain clans.

M. Lippich was also good enough to fall in with my view, and to define most clearly the subordinate position of the Lieutenant-Governor of the mountains to the Governor-General of the Province of North Albania (Scutari).

I do not believe that any difficulty whatever need be expected in working out a form of administration which will be acceptable to the Roman Catholics, but I feel that it is absolutely necessary to conciliate and gain over to the idea of self-government the Mohammedan portion of the inhabitants of Scutari, who, although they already have vague hopes of an improvement from their present state, are still sufficiently doubtful of Christian aspirations to be liable to become blind instruments of any powerful Governmental pressure that may be brought into play for the purpose of smothering reforms.

I, therefore, have given the greatest attention to the means of gaining the Mohammedan support, and I am more than ever convinced that it can only be attained by working on the ambitions of such men as Hodo Bey, already mentioned in my despatch No. 128 of the 29th ultimo.

If too close an inspection is made of the antecedents of this person and other similar chiefs, their elimination from a share in the projected changes will only drive them into opposition, and they can effectually wreck whatever they oppose.

When once they have permitted the reforms to be established, and should they be found not sufficiently intelligent to conform themselves to the new order of things, there will always be time enough to replace them by more capable functionaries, for then even the Mohammedan inhabitants will have understood the advantages that have been secured for them.

In the southern districts of the province the Mussulmans are more advanced in their ideas, but, nevertheless, no progress would be possible if the Mahommedans of Scutari held back.

I have had serious and confidential conversations on these matters with some most influential Christian native gentlemen and patriots, and they have fully acquiesced in my views.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 88.

M. Lippich to Baron Haymerle.

LES tribus montagnardes de la Province de Scutari sont les suivantes:—

1. Les tribus au nord de Scutari ou les grandes montagnes formées actuellement par les tribus de Hotti, Klementi, Gruda, Kastrati, et Schkreli, donnant un total approximatif de 19,500 âmes, dont 18,200 Catholiques et 1,250 Musulmans. Les deux drapeaux Catholiques de Trêpschi et Kotsla en font partie; toutefois, comme ils rangent parmi les quatre drapeaux de la Koutchi-Kraïna occupée par le Monténégro, ils ne sont pas énumérés ici.

2. Rioli, Retchi, et Lokia comptent environ 1,220 Catholiques et 1,580 Musulmans; en tout 2,800 âmes.

3. Pulati, contenant les tribus de Schalla, Schoschi, Nikaï, et Merture, avec les drapeaux Giovagni, Kiri, Plauti, Toplana, et Duschniani, qui forment un total de 13,180 Catholiques. Nikaï et Merture dépendent du Kaza de Djakova, mais comme en même temps ils relèvent du diocèse de Pulati, appartenant à la Province de Scutari, ils ne peuvent pas être séparés du territoire commun.

4. La Pasripa, formée par les drapeaux Drischti (Drivasto), Bogschi, Sumura, Schlatru, et Temali. Ils comptent environ 2,300 Catholiques et 1,850 Musulmans—fait 4,150 âmes.

5. Le Dukadschin (Puka) contenant les drapeaux Kabaski, Budjoni, Kerettè, Puka, Iballa, Malisi, et Berichia, avec environ, 18,000 Catholiques et 6,240 Musulmans, savoir 24,240 âmes.

6. Miridita, comptant les tribus Oroschè, Dibri, Fandè, Kuschueni, et Spatchè, avec une population approximative de 19,100 Catholiques.

7. Les drapeaux montagnards d'Alessio (Alessio, Manatia, Bulgari, Vegla, Krüesè), comptant à peu près 5,500 âmes, dont 5,200 Catholiques et 300 Musulmans.

8. Les drapeaux de Kethella, Selita, et Luria contenant à peu près 3,460 âmes, dont 2,500 Chrétiens et 960 Musulmans. Luria relève de Dibra, mais faisant partie de l'Archevêché de Durazzo, il trouve sa place dans la Province de Scutari. La population totale de ces districts s'élève à 92,000 âmes, dont 79,500 Catholiques et 12,500 Musulmans, tous Albanais Grecques.

Les montagnards jouissent d'anciennes immunités qui, sauf quelques nuances locales, sont les mêmes dans tous les districts.

Ils sont exempts du paiement des impôts et de la dîme pour terres sises dans les montagnes. Ils ont conservé leurs institutions nationales en tout ce qui concerne l'administration intérieure de leur territoire; ils ont leur droit coutumier, civil et criminel; ils ne donnent pas de conscrits, ils ne fournissent en cas de guerre que des contingents de troupes irrégulières.

Ils possèdent tous à un haut degré les qualités guerrières des Albanais; ils sont pénétrés du sentiment de leur nationalité, de l'amour de leurs institutions, et de cet esprit d'indépendance auquel ils doivent en première ligne leur position libre et exceptionnelle. Les lois du sang ou du talion leur sont communes avec les autres contrées de l'Albanie.

Elles forment, avec la nature du sol qu'ils habitent, la cause principale de l'état de désorganisation et de désœuvrement matériel et moral qui les désole.

La Mirditie possède une autonomie à part qui sous bien des rapports ressemble aux privilèges et immunités des autres montagnes, mais qui en diffère dans un point essentiel. Elle doit être administrée par un Chef dont la dignité héréditaire dans sa famille est reconnue par la Sublime Porte.

Si actuellement ce Chef n'exerce pas les fonctions remplies par ses prédécesseurs, il faut en attribuer la cause à des circonstances particulières qui, si pour le moment elles ont altéré la situation antérieure du pays, ne sauraient en modifier les bases.

Les Hautes Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin se sont montrées favorables au maintien de l'autonomie des Mirdites, et bien disposées à laisser subsister les immunités des tribus Montagnardes Albanaises en général.

La province de Scutari semble être appelée à voir sanctionner par la concession d'une autonomie plus ou moins large, la situation exceptionnelle qu'elle a toujours occupée sur les autres dépendances directes de la Sublime Porte. Les tribus de montagne ne peuvent pas aisément être assimilées aux autres parties de la province, et cela à cause du régime libre et presqu'indépendant, dont elles ont constamment joui, et auquel il ne serait pas prudent de toucher, pourraient obtenir une organisation spéciale qui, en tenant compte de leurs privilèges, de leurs institutions, et de leurs usages, leur donnerait dans la province de

Scutari une position à part propre à les rendre accessibles aux bienfaits de la civilisation Européenne, à laquelle, grâce aux capacités naturelles de leurs habitants, elles seraient à même de rendre des services utiles.

Ce régime pourrait être le suivant :—

Les montagnards étant à la grande majorité (six à un) Catholiques, et les fractions Musulmanes qu'on trouve dans leurs montagnes ne pouvant pas en être séparées, ou plutôt, ne le désirant nullement, on pourrait les réunir dans un Sous-Gouvernement subordonné au Gouverneur-Général de Scutari.

Le Sous-Gouverneur, Mutessarif, Caïmacam, Capitaine, Pacha, serait nommé par Sa Majesté le Sultan, et serait revêtu des dignités de sa charge par un Firman Impérial. Il exercerait ses fonctions en sous-ordre du Gouverneur-Général de la province, si l'on veut même, par sa délégation. La durée de ses fonctions serait de cinq ans; il aurait le rang de Pacha, et prendrait des appointements analogues à sa position. Il devrait être Catholique indigène, issu, si faire se peut, d'une des familles Notables des montagnes. Quant au personnage qui serait appelé à remplir cette charge on pourrait préalablement entendre les vœux de la population des montagnes, et sanctionner le choix qu'elle aurait fait.

Les subdivisions actuelles en tribus et drapeaux reposant sur des traditions généalogiques et de filiation aussi bien que sur les conditions topographiques des montagnes, et sur leur organisation guerrière, devraient être maintenues.

Toutefois, on diviserait les montagnes en quatre districts administratifs, ayant chacun à la tête des affaires un Capitaine de District dépendant directement du Sous-Gouverneur.

Le premier de ces districts comprendérait les cinq grandes montagnes au nord de Scutari, avec Rioli; le Capitaine résiderait à Tousi.

Le second embrasserait Pulati; son Capitaine siégerait à Schalla.

Le troisième serait formé par le Dukadjir et la Postipa; le Capitaine aurait sa résidence à Puka.

Le quatrième comprendrait Mirdita, les montagnes d'Alessio, Kethella, Selita, et Luria; le Capitaine résiderait à Aroschi.

De même on laisserait subsister les institutions traditionnelles des montagnes, savoir, l'administration locale à l'aide des Voïvodes, des Conseils des Anciens de village, et des Assemblées de tribus; le droit coutumier, civil, et criminel (le Code des montagnes), l'administration de la justice et de la police locale.

Les amendes qui aujourd'hui sont en partie payées au Trésor provincial, et en partie reviennent aux Boluk Baschis, Voïvodes, et autres organes subalternes, ne devraient cependant plus être partagées entre ceux-ci, usage donnant lieu à des abus fréquents, mais rentrer au Trésor de la province pour la partie qui lui revient, et, pour l'autre, être encaissées au profit d'un fond destiné à l'entretien d'établissements d'utilité publique, comme écoles, asiles, églises, et mosquées, &c.

Le Sous-Gouverneur représenterait les intérêts de ses administrés auprès du Gouverneur-Général: il leur transmettrait les ordres du pouvoir central; il en surveillerait et dirigerait l'exécution; il serait le Chef de l'administration interne des montagnes, tant civile que judiciaire; il en serait le Chef militaire; il réunirait, en un mot, les fonctions d'un Gouverneur civil et militaire, en sous-ordre du Gouverneur-Général de la province.

Pour obéir à une institution fondamentale commune à toutes les montagnes, et pour limiter le Sous-Gouverneur dans l'exercice de ses fonctions, il serait nécessaire de le faire entourer d'un Conseil, dont les membres devraient être pris parmi les Chefs et Notables de la population montagnarde et élus par elle pour un temps déterminé. Le nombre des Assesseurs serait fixé par un règlement spécial qui en définirait les attributions, le mode de leur election, &c.; les Assesseurs seraient rétribués. Des Conseils analogues fonctionneraient à côté des capitaines de District. Outre le Conseil Central, des députés des tribus devraient être convoqués au siège du Sous-Gouverneur pour délibérer sous sa présidence des affaires communes à toutes les montagnes, ainsi que des Projets de Loi du Gouvernement, et pour concerter des mesures d'un intérêt général. De même des Assemblées pareilles pourraient être appelées à se réunir dans les quatre districts pour délibérer des affaires locales du district sous la présidence du Capitaine.

Le maintien de l'ordre et de la sûreté publique, l'exécution des mandats administratifs et judiciaires exigeant l'existence d'un corps de gendarmes locaux, chaque tribu en emploierait à ses frais un certain nombre pris parmi la population de l'endroit. Il y en aurait aussi un nombre suffisant au siège du Sous-Gouverneur. Cette gendarmerie relèverait du Sous-Gouverneur et recevrait une solde régulière.

Pour subvenir aux frais de l'Administration, au paiement des appointements des membres du Conseil Administratif, des Capitaines de District, des autres organes

subalternes, de la gendarmerie, &c., la population des montagnes devrait s'imposer une taxe suffisante aux exigences de ces différentes dépenses.

La gestion de ce revenu serait entre les mains du Sous-Gouverneur et de son Conseil, qui en devraient rendre compte à la population.

Une loi spéciale concertée avec l'Assemblée des Montagnes règlerait le service militaire inhérent aux devoirs qui se rattachent à leurs immunités. Elle règlerait le chiffre des contingents de première, de seconde, et de troisième catégorie, l'organisation et l'armement, les endroits de ralliement, la solde ou les rations à allouer aux troupes en temps de guerre, ou pour la durée de quelque service spécial en temps de paix, &c. Ces contingents formeraient une milice territoriale sédentaire destinée, avant tout, à la défense du pays.

Peu à peu, et en raison du développement matériel des montagnes, elles pourraient, par le moyen de Projets de Loi du Gouvernement, être amenées à payer la dîme et les autres impôts dont s'acquitte la population rurale de la province.

Un autre Projet de Loi leur proposerait l'adoption de mesures générales et efficaces ayant pour but la suppression progressive de la loi du talion.

L'autonomie spéciale des Mirdites ne saurait pas être abolie tout d'abord. Leur Capitaine pourrait occuper une position particulière auprès du Sous-Gouverneur et au sein du Conseil. Peu à peu ils pourraient être assimilés aux autres montagnards, ce qui ne se rendrait pas trop difficile, surtout si leur Capitaine était appelé à remplir en même temps les fonctions de Sous-Gouverneur des montagnes, ce qui simplifierait essentiellement toute la question.

Scutari, le 26 Juin, 1880.

No. 89.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 7.*)

(No. 564.) *Paris, July 6*, 1880.

My Lord,

IN execution of the instruction conveyed to me by your Lordship's telegram No. 227 of last evening, I mentioned this morning to M. de Freycinet that your Lordship had received intelligence that the Greek Ministers had sent by post, on the 3rd instant, to the King of the Hellenes, two Proclamations which they submitted for His Majesty's signature. The first of these Proclamations provided for the gradual calling out of the reserves and mobilization of the army, while the other convoked the Chamber for the beginning of September, in order that the mobilization might be communicated to it in legal form.

I said that it appeared to your Lordship that these steps were premature, and that at all events they should not be taken before the answer of the Porte with regard to the decisions of the Conference at Berlin had been received and considered by the Powers.

Your Lordship was, I told M. de Freycinet, of opinion that the steps in question, if taken at this moment, would increase the repugnance of Turkey to yielding; that they would cause great excitement among the Greeks and Turks on the frontier; and that they would not intimidate the Turks, who were afraid of what might be done by the Great Powers, but were not afraid of what might be done by Greece.

I said, in conclusion, that your Lordship proposed to telegraph in the above sense to Her Majesty's Minister at Athens.

M. de Freycinet said that he had not received a report on the subject of the proposed Proclamations from Athens, but that he entirely concurred in your Lordship's opinion, and would send immediately by telegraph to the French Chargé d'Affaires in Greece instructions similar to those which your Lordship proposed to send to Her Majesty's Minister.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 90.

Memorandum communicated to Earl Granville by Count Károlyi, July 7, 1880.

DIRECT invitation to Montenegro to occupy by force of arms the territory assigned to it by the Dulcigno arrangement seems not advisable.

Such an invitation would transfer the responsibility for all the consequences from Montenegro, which seems little inclined for action, to the Powers, and establish a moral obligation to insure Montenegro against ill-success, eventually lead to war against the Albanians.

Baron Haymerle reminds me that the Ambassadors in Constantinople have, by the identical note of the 25th June, put the alternative to the Porte, either to accept the Dulcigno arrangement, or immediately to carry out the April Memorandum which is still in vigour.

Should the Porte in a delay to be fixed for a short term not do either, and should Prince Nikita in consequence of the refusal of the Porte wish to enter into action, we will be prepared to take part in a naval demonstration before Dulcigno in favour of Montenegro.

As Lord Granville is not disposed to an exclusive co-operation of Austria and England, we prefer a collective action of the Powers under the reserves proposed by Lord Granville to any other mode. We further think that in this case the measure of participation of each Power could be fixed from the beginning to two vessels.

We think it quite natural that Lord Granville should not take the landing of troops in view. In order to prevent even a temporary failure, any landing would have to be effected with considerable forces; besides, great difficulties would result from the various questions of details, as, for instance, composition of the troops, their commandment, duration of the occupation, &c., and the proportions of the whole undertaking might grow into a case of war against Turkey.

The idea of an entrance of gun-boats into the Bojana ought, according to our opinion, be put aside, as the vessels would experience much inconvenience resulting from the very low and ever-varying level of the river, its many sinuosities, shallows, and banks. They might even see themselves exposed to the danger of being flanked from the hostile heights on both sides, and in case of a further sinking of the river level find their retreat barred, as it is actually the case to-day with two small Austrian merchant-steamers. The same and even more difficult conditions prevail for the eventual advance into the Lake of Scutari.

Belgrave Square, July 7, 1880.

No. 91.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 7, 8 A.M.)

(No. 102.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 6, 1880, 11·20 A.M.*

ANSWER to Armenian part of identic note received. I send it by messenger to-day. It enters into many details, explains a project of reforms on the lines I previously described as Abeddin's views, including reorganization of village communities and police, establishment of a Court of Assize, remittance to Constantinople of the balance of revenue after payment of local administrative expenses, and so forth. But Abeddin's plan, itself not thorough-going, has been still further toned down, and the project, as a whole, as it stands will certainly not be acceptable.

The note contains Turkish statements of alleged number of Armenians, giving them, including other Christians, as less than one fourth of the whole.

No. 92.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received July 7, 8 A.M.)

(No. 22.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, July 6, 1880, 6 P.M.*

SIXTH meeting of Commission. Progress up to Article 55.

No. 93.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 103.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 7, 1880.*

WITH reference to Mr. Corbett's telegram to your Lordship, marked Secret, of yesterday, Abeddin Pasha has pledged his word to me that the Circular to Albanians attributed to him is a forgery.

(Sent to Athens.)

No. 94.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 7, 2·30 P.M.)

(No. 96.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 7, 1880.*

BARON HAYMERLE has given me confidentially a report of the Austrian intelligence map upon the River Boyana, which I will send your Lordship by to-morrow's messenger.

The depth in summer is stated to vary from half a metre to two metres, and to be still less above Obotti.

No. 95.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 7, 3·30 P.M.)

(No. 95.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 7, 1880.*

AUSTRIAN Government do not consider that the execution of the April arrangement would be attended with either the difficulty or the inconvenience represented in Mr. Green's telegram No. 36.

They believe, though the Dulcigno arrangement would certainly be the easiest carried out of the two, the difficulty in the execution of either plan mainly depends upon the action taken by the Porte. If the troops announced as about to be sent from Constantinople are sent with an honest determination of carrying out the April arrangement, and if money is distributed to the Albanian leaders, it is thought a settlement may be arrived at.

No. 96.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 7, 1880, 4·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 7, inform Greek Government that Her Majesty's Government consider issue of Proclamation premature—at all events, before the answer of the Porte has been received and considered by the Powers. It would make the Turks more unwilling to yield, it would excite the Turks and Greeks on the frontier, and it would not intimidate the Turks, who are afraid of what Europe may do, and not of what may be done by Greece.

The French Government will send an instruction similar to the above to the French Chargé d'Affaires, and you should concert with him as to making a communication to the Greek Government to the above effect.

No. 97.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 7, 1880, 6 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 20 of the 1st July.

Islands you mention, though they may be said to be geographically in European Turkey, are administratively in Asia, except Thasos, which is in Vilayet of Salonica, and belongs to Khedive.

According to Helle von Samo, whose book will be sent to you, Samothrace, Imbros, Lemnos, and Hagiostrati were, in 1878, included in Vilayet of Bighu, Asia.

No. 98.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 7, 8 P.M.*)

(No. 106.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July 7, 1880, 4·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 295, the Russian Government has no objection to the publication of the identic note.

No. 99.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 7, 9 P.M.*)

(No. 107.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July 7, 1880, 5·50 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 298, M. de Giers thinks that the Emperor will concur in the terms of the proposed communication to the Porte.

M. de Giers appeared to me much pleased with the reference to the term "force" [? "forcible"].

He asked me why the suggestion had been made to Austria.

I said because I imagined you were more doubtful of obtaining the consent of Austria than that of Russia.

Is the communication to be made only by Austria and England, with the concurrence of the other Powers, or by all the Powers simultaneously?

No. 100.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.[*]

(No. 848.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, July 7, 1880.*

MY telegram to your Excellency No. 157 of the 18th June contained a repetition of Mr. Goschen's telegram No. 51 of the previous day respecting the proposed inquiry into the state of the minor populations of Eastern Roumelia. I now inclose a copy of a telegram from Mr. Goschen, No. 94, pointing out an error in his No. 51 above referred to, which referred to his supposed suggestion that England and France should send Colonel Wilson on the proposed inquiry; whereas Mr. Goschen's proposal was that Colonel Wilson should be sent by England, no mention being made of France.

I may add that it has been ascertained that the error occurred in the cyphering at Constantinople; and it would be as well that your Excellency should make the correction in the telegram No. 51, whether in the repetition or in the telegraphic section of Friday, the 18th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Inclosure in No. 100.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.

(No. 94.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 1, 1880.*

MY telegram No. 51.

I discover, from printed telegrams, a serious error here in my telegram. I did not telegraph that "England and France should send Colonel Wilson." My draft runs "that England should send Colonel Wilson, with an instruction, &c."

I was unable to understand your telegram No. 182 of the 27th instant [? ultimo] in consequence.

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[*] Also to Sir H. Elliot, Lord Odo Russell, the Earl of Dufferin, and Sir A. Paget.

No. 101.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 29.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, July 7, 1880.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 74 of the 1st instant reporting the last meeting of the Conference on the Greek frontier question, and I have great pleasure in conveying to you the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government of your proceedings as Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary to the Conference, and of the manner in which Sir Linton Simmons performed his duties as Technical Commissioner for Great Britain.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 102.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 371. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 7, 1880.*

THE Austrian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and placed in my hands the memorandum of which I inclose a copy.*

I remarked to Count Károlyi that although the observations of Baron Haymerle contained in it seemed principally to apply to the first of the two proposals I had recently made for the settlement of the Montenegrin question, as embodied in my despatch to your Excellency No. 362, Secret, of the 3rd instant, yet that I took this communication as implying the consent of the Austrian Government to my second proposal as contained in the inclosure in my despatch No. 367 of the 6th instant.

Count Károlyi confirmed me in this view.

I added that two points occurred to me in regard to the memorandum. First, as regards the question of a direct invitation to the Prince of Montenegro to occupy the territory assigned to him by force of arms, I was disposed to agree with Baron Haymerle that it would be better, upon the whole, to abstain from this step.

Secondly, as to the possibility of operations in the Boyana, which was, however, a matter of detail, subsequent information led me to believe that there would be greater difficulties than I had at first imagined. But I thought this was a matter which might be left to the discretion of the naval commanders.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 103.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 26.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, July 7, 1880.*

IN reply to your inquiry as to which of the Turkish islands of the Ægean are considered to be in Europe, I telegraphed to you to-day to inform you that the Island of Thasos, which belongs to the Khedive of Egypt, is in the Vilayet of Salonica, but that the others mentioned by you, viz., Imbros, Samothrace, and Lemnos, though they may be said to be geographically in European Turkey, are for administrative purposes included in the Vilayet of Bigha, in Asia, as is also the Island of Hagiostrati according to Helle von Samo, whose work on the vilayet of the islands of the Ottoman Archipelago is herewith inclosed, as well as a memorandum on the subject which has been drawn up the Librarian of this Department.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* No. 90.

No. 104.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 96.) *Foreign Office, July 7, 1880.*

Sir,

IN your telegram No. 7 of the 3rd instant, you inform me that M. Tricoupi intends at once to submit for the signature of the King of the Hellenes Proclamations for mobilizing the army, and for convoking the Chamber for the beginning of September to receive the necessary communication of the Decree for mobilization.

Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that until the answer of the Porte to the Award of the Conference shall have been received and considered by the Powers the issue of such Proclamations would be premature.

You will therefore exert your influence to induce the Greek Government to reconsider the steps on which it appears to have resolved, and in support of your representations you might point out the probability that such action on their part would be likely to increase the reluctance of Turkey to yield to the counsels of Europe, while it would inevitably have the effect of adding to the excitement of the Greek and Mussulman populations of the frontier districts. The military force which Greece can put into the field is not sufficient to intimidate the Turkish Government, which will be mainly influenced by the attitude of the Powers represented at the Berlin Conference.

The French Government concur in the views of Her Majesty's Government as above expressed, and they have sent instructions accordingly to your French colleague with whom you should concert as to making a communication to the Greek Government in the sense of this despatch.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 105.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Luscelles.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 8.)

(No. 15.) *Rustchuk, June 15, 1880.*

Sir,

ACCORDING to your wishes I have made a journey through a pretty large part of this district, in order to observe the condition of the population.

I left Rustchuk on horseback on Thursday, the 20th May, by the Tirnovo high road. The country from Rustchuk to Bela is poor and thinly peopled, and suffered greatly in the late war, owing to its position between two hostile armies; it was principally in this district that the relief sent last winter by his Excellency Sir H. Layard was distributed. Nevertheless, I found that the people have been able to cultivate a large extent of ground, and that there is very fair promise of a good crop. The population here have suffered greatly, but I hope now their sufferings are near an end.

The road from Bela to Tirnovo lies in the valley of the Jantra, where everything has the appearance of the greatest prosperity; here the country was at once seized and held by the Russian army, and the villagers grew rich by the high prices they were able to get for their produce.

At Trestinik I met a few Turkish families emigrating from the Tirnovo district; they had the appearance of being well-off and were probably townsfolk; near Tirnovo I saw a lot of Turkish villagers going towards that town with all their belongings. I inquired the reason, and found that they had sold their lands and were going to Tirnovo to complete the legal transfers before emigrating.

In the valleys of the Jantra and Russitza the land is rich and much coveted by the Bulgars; further south, the Balkan (hill country) is crowded with small villages; the land is poorer and has been tilled by the women, the men going to the Dobrudja, Roumania, or Roumelia to find work; these people are Christians, have always been well-off, and are now the purchasers of the Turkish lands in the plains at comparatively high prices, say, from 2*l.* to 4*l.* per acre.

From Tirnovo I was accompanied by the Acting Governor and the Chief of Police by "Kilifar" and its monastery to "Cruski-Han," where there is a fine spring of sulphurous mineral water, and afterwards to a small village called Vlasotil, where we slept.

We passed a great number of small villages, which are not marked on "Kannitz" map; all the population of this country is Christian, and I was told that even in former times

the sight of a Turk was a great rarity; we saw few men except Elders, but the women and children seemed very happy and well-off, singing at their work.

From Vlasotil we visited the coal mines of "Behnobrach," which were worked by the Turkish Government by galleries driven into the hillside. This place is not marked on the "Kannitz" map, but must be near to the point marked Cipirani.

I believe there is little doubt of the great value of these coal mines, but only after a railway shall have given communication with the Danube; for in the present condition of the roads the transport of the coal to Sistova or Rustchuk would cost over 2*l.* a ton.

Continuing our route by "Flanco-Han" and "Bahrig," we got to "Travna," an important town, the centre of considerable industry in silk and woolwork, such as braid, horse trappings, and a very pretty red woollen velvet for covering chairs or sofas. The trade in horse trappings has very much fallen off, owing to the departure of all Pashas and rich Turks, and the general poverty at Constantinople.

At Travna the Governor of Tirnovo left me to return to his post, while I rode over the hills to Gabrova. All this hill country from Tirnovo is surpassingly beautiful, being well wooded and watered, while every inch of land fit to plough is covered with crops of wheat or maize.

The panorama of the Shipka, Kalofer, Trojan, Balkan, as seen from the top of the pass between Travna and Gabrova, is, I think, the finest landscape I ever saw.

Gabrova has always been a great Bulgarian centre and a prosperous manufacturing town; it is also the seat of the university. A number of new houses are now building, which are much needed.

About 150 Turkish refugees returning from Roumelia passed here during my stay. They were fed by the Government from the depôt of Russian biscuit, not yet exhausted, and sent on towards Plevna, their native district. Altogether about 950 had passed up to the time I was there, most of them in great poverty.

From Gabrova to Sevlievo is through a prosperous country until we come to Serbegli, a Turkish village very much ruined. There are about 50 houses, though in bad order, whereas formerly there were 130. The actual population is about 50 male and from 200 to 300 female Turks; formerly there would be about 800. This was the limit reached by the Bashi-Bazouk force of Deli Nedjib Pasha, which occupied the country at Trojan. Nevertheless, the fields look well, for they are cultivated by Bulgarians from the Balkan, on a sort of voluntary co-operative arrangement, whereby the Turk supplies the land, the Bulgar the labour and seed. The crop is to be divided,—if wheat, 2*s.* 3*d.* to the land, 1*s.* 3*d.* to the labour; if maize, half-and-half. These sorts of arrangements are common at present.

All round Sevlievo there was and is a large Turkish population, of whom eight villages remain quite intact, never having fled, and having profited by the high prices of produce paid by the Russian army are now rich; others, where the people fled, have been more or less ruined, like Serbegli, though none to the same extent; but in general it may be said they are well off. The country is fertile, and the Turkish village population seem well content to remain, though the town population will be diminished. The reason of this is, that there is not now any employment in the administration for Turks.

I may mention as hopeful signs, however, that one of the mosques which was destroyed is now about to be rebuilt, and that the townsfolk are setting about learning Bulgarian, so as to become eligible for employment in the administration.

A curious phenomenon met me here. The Turkish villagers of "Kara Hassan-quoi," who had remained undisturbed all through the war, lately, in consequence of the preaching of some fanatic from Constantinople, sold all their property and emigrated. They have now returned, and are anxious to be settled near their former home.

From Sevlievo I went to Lovatz, which I had known before the war as a large and prosperous town, mostly Turkish; it is now very poor indeed, for the population of this district mostly emigrated, and it will be remembered that some of the military operations, of which Plevna was the centre, extended this length.

Most of the land belonging to the refugees is being worked by the Government on the principle of one-third to the labour, one-third to the land, and one-third to the Government to cover taxes and expenses.

Many refugees are passing here from the Trojan Pass, as well as from Gabrova, returning to their old villages either in this district or in that of Plevna. All have to be fed by the local authority, and consequently grain of all kinds is at famine prices. On the other hand, houses which have not been ruined can be rented cheap enough, the Turkish owners being only too glad to have a respectable tenant on any terms. I dined

in a house which was as good as my own at Rustchuk, though let at the rent of 56 fr. a-year, while I am obliged to pay 2,300 fr., or forty times the rent.

I had intended going on by Trojan, Teteven, and Etropol to Sophia, but as my horse fell lame I had to send him home to Rustchuk, and go by Plevna, the only carriage road.

Plevna, of course, is very ruinous, and the country round it depopulated; large quantities of seed and food have had to be distributed, and to such an extent has this been the case that the Government have had to bring maize from Roumania to supply the needs.

The crops, however, as everywhere else, look good; the vineyards, of which there is an enormous extent both here, at Lovatz, and Sevlievo, promise well, and I hear there is to be competition between France and Hungary for the forthcoming vintage.

I am informed that the total number of refugees, either Mahommedans returning from the south or Macedonian Christians fleeing from their own country, which have come by the three routes of Shipka, Trojan, or Orchanie, amounts to about 8,000.

I met a considerable number on the latter road who were mostly fairly well provided with oxen, though unfortunately they are arriving too late to be able to do anything to this year's crop.

Along the road to Orchanie, as at Dolni-Dubnic, Telish, Radomirca, Lukovitza, the villages are much ruined, especially the Mohammedan ones, such as Petreven, and most of the people working in the fields are Bulgarians, although occasionally one sees both Mahommedans and Christians side by side.

The Mahommedans here are Pomaks, and speak Bulgarian by preference.

After leaving Petreven the villages are in a less ruinous state, and the country up to Orchanie is one of the most beautiful that could be imagined, well wooded, and abounding in sites for country houses; unfortunately the houses are wanting.

Orchanie is delightfully situated in a fertile valley. The Prefect told me that he had procured opium seed for some Macedonian refugees who wished to settle there, and that the promise of a crop was much greater than they were accustomed to in their own country.

If this trial should prove to be successful a new industry will be opened up in the country.

The Government both here and elsewhere have been supplying tobacco seed of fine quality, so as to improve the production.

I saw a mosque in process of reconstruction, and thinking it a very good sign, asked some questions about it. I was told, however, that it had been consecrated, and would now be used as a Christian church. I suggested that a mosque must belong to the Evcaf, and that as there was a Commission now sitting it might be better to have authority from that Commission. The reply was that it had been built by Christians, under the promise that when finished the Mahommedans in turn would assist the Christians to build a church, a promise which had never been fulfilled; also that the land on which it stood had been stolen from a Mahommedan widow, who had then cursed the mosque and predicted its conversion.

From Orchanie to Tash-kissen is a very steep pass. Baker's earthworks still crown it; they are surrounded by a large quantity of woollen rags, evidently the tattered uniforms of soldiers who there met their fate; but as no bones are visible I presume the bodies have been buried.

From Tash-kissen to Sophia the roadside villages are a little knocked about, and the frequency of new red tiles shows how many houses have been rebuilt; but I think it may be said that the events of the last four years have scarcely left a trace in all this rich country except in the town of Sophia itself, which seems more ruinous than even Plevna.

From Sophia to Lom Palanka, except only in the neighbourhood of Bukovatz, the country is scarcely peopled at all, and as it was outside the sphere of action of the hostile armies, should have been left at peace. I am sorry to say however that, as in Sophia, enormous and wanton destruction has been worked on Mahommedan, especially mosque property, though perhaps the worst thing which came under my observation during the whole journey was a gang of 15 or 20 labourers engaged lifting the tombstones in a graveyard at Sophia, for the purpose of road-making, although carefully leaving those in a Christian cemetery situated exactly on the opposite side of the road.

From Lom Palanka I returned to Rustchuk by steamer.

Undoubtedly the most crying want in the country is justice. The Courts are admittedly insufficient for their ordinary work, even were the Judges men of legal education and of character above suspicion; but considering the enormous amount of temporary

work now thrown on them in regulating the titles to property everywhere disputed, it is not to be wondered at if they are helplessly encumbered, and that advantage is taken of this state of things to force down prices of property when the Turk is a seller.

I have ventured to throw out the suggestion that it might be within the competence of the Courts to name Commissioners to undertake all this work of settlement of titles, leaving the Courts to their ordinary litigations.

I have heard of a great number of cases of gross perversion of justice; that of a British subject, Berliner, mentioned in No. 38 of last year, where the Court alternately balanced between continuing a sequestration and lifting it, at last suddenly lifted it and allowed the defender, a Russian subject, to get his money and escape; then granted a valueless decision in favour of the British plaintiff after defendant had left the country.

In Rustchuk at present a British subject has—illegally I think—raised an action in the Bulgarian Court, without the intervention of this Vice-Consulate, against a native, to make him personally liable for a debt said to be due by a Company of which both were shareholders. He got decree in absence, but of course appeal has been made; meantime the Court, which said they could not in any way recognize the existence of the Company, have sequestered its property in favour of the plaintiff, notwithstanding that I have officially informed it that it has no jurisdiction at all.

The case of Mr. Weiss, at Sophia, will be familiar to you; also that of Mr. Falauga, acting for Mustapha Bey. I mention these because in both instances the parties have prepared and distributed lithographed statements, which explain at length the manner in which the Courts are worked.

If, therefore, well-off people are driven to their wits' end by such proceedings, what must it be with the poor man, especially when he is a Turk?

In many cases, I am glad to say, good men have been appointed Prefects and Chiefs of Police, as, for instance, at Tirnovo, Gabrova, Sevlievo, Lovatz, Plevna, Orchanie, and where this is the case things seem to work comparatively smoothly with the villagers.

If a spirit of conciliation continues to be shown, as it seems to have begun lately, I feel assured that the Mahommedan peasant will remain and cultivate his fields without in any way meddling in politics; and I believe there is enough of waste land in the north-west between Sistov and Widdin to hold all these Mahommedans, of whom it may be thought there is too great a proportion in certain other localities—notably the districts now under martial law.

A great difficulty, however, will always be felt on account of the petty tyranny of small functionaries and zaptiehs; these latter seem to be in every way as overbearing as ever were the Turkish ones, and they cannot override their co-religionaries, who are now free and independent electors, and do not scruple to make that very evident whenever possible; this is a most unpleasant result of frequent Parliamentary contests, and unlimited promises on the part of candidates.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

No. 106.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Lascelles.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, July* 8.)

(No. 19.) *Rustchuk, June* 18, 1880.

Sir,

TWO steamers arrived here the day before yesterday from Rheni with 8,000 Berdan rifles, and a large quantity of ammunition, also a large number of picks, shovels, &c.

One of these steamers is, I am told, a present recently made to His Highness; she is called the "Golubtchik" ("Pigeon"), and is a paddle-wheel steamer of larger size than any of the older ones; she carries a new flag; those formerly in use by the navy are described in No. 23 of last year; the present modification is that the lion is on a large red square patch at the upper left hand corner, thus giving the flag a certain resemblance to the new Austro-Hungarian one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

No. 107.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 1.)

(No. 102.)
Sophia, July 19, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose an article from the "Bulgarski Glas," giving the figures of the Bulgarian Budget for the financial year 1880-81.

The expenses of the Principality are estimated at 26,806,687 fr., and the receipts at 23,104,500 fr., leaving a deficit of 3,692,187 fr.

M. Zancoff has informed me that the estimate of receipts can only be considered as approximative, and that, owing to the want of an organized Administration, it was impossible to ascertain what the resources of the country really were.

It is evident that until the amount of tribute to be paid to the Porte has been fixed it is the interest of the Bulgarian Government to make the revenues of the Principality appear as small as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 107.

Extract from the "Bulgarski Glas."

Le Budget de la Principauté pour l'Année 1880-81, *du* 1er *Mars au* 1er *Mars.*

	Fr.
Dépenses—	
Ministère des Finances	3,697,400
,, de l'Instruction Publique	1,372,120
,, de la Justice	1,407,200
,, de l'Intérieur	8,833,767
,, des Affaires Etrangères	671,200
,, de la Guerre	10,750,000
Récompense nationale à M. Giampietri	25,000
	26,806,687
Recettes	23,114,500
Déficit	3,692,187

TOUT le monde comprendra notre étonnement en voyant de quelle manière notre Ministre des Finances a équilibré le Budget pour l'année financière courante; et en vérité c'est la première fois que nous voyons un Ministère présenter à la Chambre un Budget dans cet état.

Nous savons qu'ordinairement ou bien le déficit est comblé par de nouveaux impôts ou par un emprunt, ou bien les Chambres diminuent les dépenses; mais nous ne pouvons pas comprendre que l'on mette des dépenses à faire, lorsque l'on sait d'avance que ces dépenses ne pourront pas être faites faute d'argent.

Il est vrai qu'il y a dans nos Caisses quelques petites réserves encore du temps des Russes; mais à notre avis, on devrait économiser ces réserves, puisque le pays a à faire beaucoup de dépenses extraordinaires. Mais en supposant même que le Ministère compte à employer ces réserves pour combler le déficit en question, on aurait dû le dire, le mentionner, pour que la Chambre et le peuple sachent que ces réserves s'épuisent. Tandis que le Ministère n'a pas même présenté à la Chambre le budget des revenus. Hier, Dimanche, l'Assemblée Nationale a examiné le budget des recettes, ou plutôt le montant des appointements des fonctionnaires, et aujourd'hui elle a commencé la discussion d'un Projet de Loi du Ministère de la Justice. De sorte qu'il n'a pas été question d'un budget de recettes.

A notre avis, ce budget de recettes n'était pas moins nécessaire à déterminer, que celui des dépenses, ne fussent que dans le but d'établir une certaine règle pour ces dépenses. Ainsi, nous savons que pour un grand nombre d'impôts—il est vrai, de peu d'importance—le chaos est complet. Dans quelques endroits on les perçoit, dans d'autres on ne les perçoit pas; ailleurs ce sont des impôts tout-à-fait différents que l'on perçoit et d'une toute autre manière. Un peu d'ordre et d'uniformité sur cette matière n'auraient pas été du tout déplacé. Mais les grands financiers ressemblent en cela aux grands poètes, ils se permettent des licences que d'autres, plus mortels qu'eux, ne se les permettraient pas.

No. 108.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 8.)

(No. 298.)
Philippopoli, June 26, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. , I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a petition, addressed by Captain Yacheroff to the Governor-General, in which the former endeavours to refute the accusations brought against him in the Report of the Kirdjali Commission.

In the absence of the documents attached to this Report, none of which have yet been published, I will venture to postpone submitting to your Lordship a summary of the evidence produced during the late inquiry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

Inclosure in No. 108.

Répliques sur le Rapport de la Commission d'Enquête sur les Evènements du Kirdjali.

A Son Altesse le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale.

Pétition de l'ancien Commandant du détachement, envoyé pour rétablir l'ordre dans le Canton du Kirdjali, du Commandant de la 9e Droujina de Hermanli, le Capitaine Yacheroff.

QUELQUES inexactitudes et nonconformités se sont glissées dans le Rapport que la Commission d'Enquête pour les affaires du Kirdjali a adressé à votre Altesse en date du 28 Mai, inexactitudes projettant un préjudice désavantageux sur le détachement commandé par moi, tandis que j'ai été rendu responsable d'avoir relâché la surveillance de la discipline dans le dit détachement. C'est pourquoi je le considère comme mon devoir de réfuter les accusations injustes, d'indiquer ces inexactitudes et nonconformités, et rétablir la vérité.

Je regrette beaucoup que la Commission n'ait pas inséré dans son Rapport détaillé mes ordres du jour au détachement et mes Rapports adressés au Commandant de la milice; mais comme ils ont été présentés par moi à la Commission, votre Altesse peut se les faire transmettre. Ne les répétant donc pas, je me permets d'appeler directement l'attention de votre Altesse sur les observations ci-dessous:

A la treizième page du Rapport de la Commission d'Enquête il est dit que j'avais reçu du Chef de l'Etat-Major les mêmes instructions qui avaient été données au Capitaine Labanowski, c'est à peu près exact, mais je les avais reçues personnellement de Labanowski—quant au Chef de l'Etat-Major, il ne m'en a donné nulle instruction, et voulait me l'envoyer plus tard. Dans l'instruction No. 50, du 13 Février, il est dit: "Conformément au Statut Organique, vous devez prendre toutes les mesures que vous trouverez nécessaires au point de vue militaire." Et dans l'autre instruction du 13 Février, il est indiqué clairement: "Je vous rappelle les termes du Statut Organique, Articles 303, 458, et 25 du Service de la Gendarmerie," le dernier Article a été trouvé ensuite inapplicable au cas donné (télégrammes du Général Streeker, 14 Février, No. 44). C'est pourquoi la conclusion de la Commission, exposée à la page 15 de son Rapport, que l'appel des habitants des villages était illégal, est tout-à-fait fausse et est renversée par l'Article 458 du Statut Organique. Quant à l'ordre de votre Altesse, relatif à la suppression des Sociétés Gymnastiques et leur transformation en réserve, j'avais demandé par un Rapport, au Général Streeker, aussitôt après la publication de cet ordre par la "Maritza," si je dois me fonder sur cette publication dans le journal officiel, ou bien si je dois attendre une information de mon autorité directe, en priant de me répondre aussitôt que possible; mais jusqu'au commencement de l'expédition je n'avais reçu nul ordre et nul éclaircissement; et sans ordre direct, énumant de mes autorités, je ne pouvais me fonder arbitrairement sur les nouvelles données par le journal—par conséquent l'appel des habitants n'est pas une disposition illégale. Outre cela, la Commission trouve que les paysans armés pouvaient causer des désordres et des difficultés, et que j'ai commis une faute par rapport à la politique; mais, en premier lieu, ce n'est pas l'affaire d'un soldat de s'occuper de politique, alors qu'il va à l'œuvre, jamais même il ne devrait s'en préoccuper—en second lieu, m'étant occupé des Sociétés Gymnastiques pendant l'occupation Russe, je connaissais très-bien le degré de leur discipline et je pouvais hardiment présupposer que le paysan Bulgare

ne fera rien de mauvais; la Commission elle-même s'est justement louée de sa conduite.

A la quinzième page du Rapport de la Commission on a inséré la fin de mon ordre de jour du 14 Février, No. 1, concernant une allocution aux soldats, et la Commission la trouve déplacée, appelant ma charge pacifique. Mais la Commission sait bien que les insurgés ont répondu à mes convictions pacifiques par des menaces, et que le premier pas sur leur territoire me coûta un tué et trois blessés; pouvait-on donc considérer cette expédition comme une promenade pacifique, et ne devais-je pas relever le courage de mes soldats par une chaude allocution? Tout l'exposé suivant de l'affaire de Babalar, fait par la Commission, est rempli des pages rien moins que pacifiques et confirme mes explications.

A la dix-septième page du Rapport de la Commission d'Enquête, il est dit que le Colonel de Toustain me demanda après son arrivée à Hotaklar, de quel droit j'avais appelé les réservistes et qu'il avait indiqué l'illégalité de mes dispositions et donné l'ordre de les renvoyer immédiatement: ce n'est pas exacte.

Le Colonel était arrivé à Hotaklar le 16 Février, quand la colonne du centre s'étant emparée dans la matinée, de Dédéler et s'y étant reposé une heure, était déjà prête de marcher sur Hodjalar. Je l'ai rencontré à la tête de tout mon effectif d'officiers, et lui ayant fait mon rapport sur la situation du détachement, sur l'affaire de Babalar qui avait eu lieu la veille, et sur les détails de la prise matinale de Dédéler, je lui ai adressé à peu près les paroles suivantes: "Comme vous êtes arrivé, mon Colonel, vous-même au détachement, permettez-moi de déposer le commandement et de m'en retourner près de ma droujina." A quoi le Colonel me répondit qu'il n'était point arrivé comme Chef de l'Etat-Major, mais tout simplement comme spectateur particulier, que je dois par conséquent continuer mon affaire et qu'il ne se mêlera pas même dans mes dispositions. Ayant donc fait l'inspection de la colonne, il la fit défiler devant lui et puis demanda pourquoi j'ai appelé la Société Gymnastique et sur quel fondement. J'ai expliqué cet appel des habitants par l'Article 158 du Statut Organique, par le besoin de maintenir la communication avec Haskoui et Hermanli, et par le but d'exercer une influence morale sur les habitants des villages qui seraient pris—pour éviter la possibilité d'une position critique de mon détachement, parce qu'en avançant dans l'intérieur du pays révolté, on pourrait se trouver exposée à deux feux. Le Colonel, loin de donner l'ordre du renvoi des habitants, ce qui serait immédiatement exécuté par moi, trouva ma disposition légale, comme le dit plus loin la Commission elle-même, et me fit connaître son désir de faire une revue des réservistes; comme d'après mon Ordre la Société ne devait pas entrer dans les villages Turcs, mais s'arrêter devant eux (mon Ordre du 14 Février, No. 1), nous nous rendîmes hors du village, dans le champ. Le Colonel y inspecta les rangs qui faisaient la garde, les salua amicalement et fut très-satisfait de l'ordre: il ordonna même à la moitié d'eux de rester pour défense du village dans lequel il allait passer la nuit; le Colonel fut aussi satisfait de ce qu'ils remplissaient le service de patrouilles et d'avant-postes.

Plus loin, à la même page 17 il est dit, que la colonne du milieu entra le 10 à Ak-Bounar; ce ne pas juste—cette colonne resta à Kereler et n'était point à Ak-Bounar. Le 20, le Colonel prit des dispositions sur lui-même, et me donna le premier Ordre écrit, en date du 20 Février, No. 65, par lequel il me prescrivait de faire la retraite, en conséquence de quoi les deux colonnes qui avaient occupé Ak-Bounar commencèrent leur retraite.

A la dix-huitième page du Rapport de la Commission d'Enquête il est dit que, pendant que le Colonel était entre Ak-Bounar et Karemoussalar, le Lieutenant Walter l'informa de l'incendie de tout le village qui prit feu tout d'un coup, comme si un signal avait était donné et que la colonne du Timoféyeff passait auprès des maisons enflammées, en poussant des: "hourras!" tandis que le Capitaine Timoféyeff lui-même chevauchait sur la place de l'incendie. Ce n'est pas juste. J'ai pris congé du Colonel de Toustain, quand la retraite générale avait été ordonnée, et je me suis rendu à la colonne gauche, tandis que le Colonel monta dans son équipage. Je n'avais pas encore fait 300 pas quand, m'étant retourné, je vis que la maison qui avait été occupée par le Colonel prend feu de même que la maison où il y avait encore des gendarmes. Le Colonel ne faisait que quitter le village et pouvait voir lui-même l'incendie. Sachant que le Colonel n'était pas encore loin, et que la gendarmerie se trouvait sur la place même de l'incendie, je ne m'en suis pas retourné, d'autant plus que j'avais aperçu de la fumée dans la partie gauche du village, située dans le rayon de la colonne gauche. Je m'y rendis en carrière et j'aperçus deux maisons en feu; je fis rebrousser chemin à demi peloton et adressai au Capitaine Timoféyeff un reproche sévère pour manque de

surveillance. Mais le Capitaine Timoféyeff m'expliqua que tous ses soldats étaient déjà assemblés et en marche, qu'ils n'avaient pas pu par conséquent mettre le feu, et que selon toute probabilité le feu fut mis par les Turcs arrêtés qui étaient délivrés au moment de la sortie, ce qu'ils avaient probablement fait par méchanceté ou par esprit de vengeance. Parmi ceux qui avaient été arrêtés, il y avait des habitants des villages voisins, et comme ceux d'Ak-Bounar étaient aux rangs des premiers commençants, les voisins lésés se sont vengés d'eux, en mettant le feu à leurs maisons. Considérant l'incendie des maisons occupées par le Chef de l'Etat-Major et par la gendarmerie, cette supposition devient très-vraisemblable, comme il n'est pas possible de supposer que les gendarmes eussent mit feu eux-mêmes. Finalement, le Capitaine Timoféyeff pouvait choisir une autre place pour l'incendie, et non pas celle qui était située sous les yeux du Chef de l'Etat-Major, s'il avait voulu à toute force faire des incendies; mais on sait bien que sur toute la ligne de son avancement et de sa retraite il n'y avait non-seulement des incendies, mais pas même de plaintes.

Puis j'ai rencontré à Kereler, le 22, le Général Strecker, quelques minutes avant son départ de ce village. Après que je lui eu fait mon rapport, le Général me dit: "Vous avez fini bien, mais vous avez mal commencé; il ne fallait pas appeler les réservistes." Je lui expliquai les raisons qui me portèrent à faire cela, et ensuite je le priai de me décharger de mon commandement pendant qu'il était présent, à quoi le Général me répondit: "Continuez à commander, je ne suis pas venu ici comme Commandant de la milice, mais comme particulier sur l'invitation du Préfet de Haskoui, dans un but administratif. Les deux compagnies de Plovdiv qui sont arrivées avec moi entrent dans votre commandement; leurs Commandants n'ont pas pu comparaître devant vous, comme vous n'étiez pas présent." Mais puis il ajouta: "Retirez-vous aussi vite que vous pouvez; j'ai déjà renvoyé votre colonne du centre." Le même jour j'atteignis le Général à Karamoussalar et j'ai reçu l'ordre de céder le commandement à Engelhardt, puis je me rendis à Haskoui, où je fus arrêté.

Quant à la troisième partie du Rapport de la Commission d'Enquête, je me permets d'appeler l'attention de votre Altesse sur le fait suivant: du nombre de vingt-quatre villages cités par la Commission comme ayant souffert pendant l'expédition, des violences et des pillages, il ressort des éclaircissements de la même Commission:

1. Qu'il y a sept villages qui n'avaient point de plaintes à porter, notamment: Dagkouy, Yeni-Mahalé, Babalar, Hodjalar, Nekikouy, Tchoripalclar, et Alender.

2. Quatre villages qui ont déclaré leurs plaintes fausses, notamment: Boyadjik, Alfatli Tépédjik, et Pandajik.

Remarque. En dernier lieu ils ont en effet déclaré que pendant les trois quarts d'heure que la milice y a passé, beaucoup de femmes furent violées, ce qui est douteux et puis elles-mêmes réfutent leurs paroles.

3. Huit villages abandonnés par les habitants, notamment: Karamoussalar, Madjalar, Kuvendjilar, Kereler, Karahattar, Tépé-Alti, Mehmed Aktcha Han, et Dedeler.

Remarque. Les habitants des dits villages se réfugièrent, d'après les témoignages des Moukhtars et de la Commission, à l'approche de la milice au delà de l'Arda, avec leurs femmes, leurs bestiaux, et leurs biens; que pouvait-on donc piller dans des villages complètement abandonnés; il est remarquable, qu'il n'y a presque pas de plaintes de la part des villages dont les habitants restaient, quoique tous les biens eussent été là.

4. Un village reconnu comme n'ayant pas de droit à une satisfaction, notamment: Hassan-Balar.

5. Le village d'Hotaklar n'a fait d'abord valoir nulle plainte, pas même au Chef de l'Etat-Major, qui y est resté vingt-quatre heures entières, mais plus tard des plaintes se firent entendre évoquées probablement par l'exemple des voisins. Pendant la nuit que la milice y a passé je n'ai pas dormi, et j'ai surveillé personnellement l'ordre et les coups tirés de la part des Bachi-Bozouks;

6. Les Moukhtars du village Koja-Kichla ont déclaré que je fis enfermer dans le djami les habitants présents, et que pendant ce temps des faits de violence furent commis; mais en premier lieu, personne ne fut arrêté par moi; le Commandant de la gendarmerie de Haskoui seul faisait des arrestations; en second, il n'y avait, autant que je le puis me rappeler, personne dans le djami, parce que le Colonel, moi, et quelques officiers, nous étions assis longtemps dans la vérandah de la djami, prenant notre café et c'est là que le Colonel me fit connaître le télégramme du Général Strecker, relatif à l'Article 25; en troisième lieu, "dans aucun village les soldats n'étaient logés dans des maisons," mais bivouaquaient hors le village, sur la position, et en exposait continuellement des postes et prenait toutes les mesures

de précaution contre une oppression inattendue; dans le village il n'y avait que les gendarmes et parfois aussi quelques miliciens, envoyés à l'aide de la gendarmerie sur la requête de son Commandant. Personne n'était autorisé à sortir hors des postes. Par conséquent des violences, exprimées par l'arrachement des pantalons, n'ont nulle vraisemblance.

7. Le village d'Aleden. Les Moukhtars ont déposé que je fis emmener les habitants qui étaient restés, à Ak-Bounar; je n'ai pas même été dans ce village.

8. Ak-Bounar a souffert de l'incendie, comme il a été dit plus haut.

De sorte que de tous les vingt-quatre villages, seulement Ak-Bounar peut jeter quelques soupçons sur la milice, mais des soupçons bien faibles, et non pas une accusation formelle.

Quant à ce qui concerne spécialement ma droujina de Harmanli, elle est positivement, comme je l'ai dit plus haut, sans reproche.

Il nous reste à examiner la conclusion générale de la Commission.

Moi, je ne suis accusé de rien,—mais la Commission m'impose la responsabilité morale pour la faible surveillance de la conduite du détachement. J'y réponds: En premier lieu—il est connu à la Commission que partout où je remarquais des désordres je les faisais immédiatement cesser, en punissant sévèrement les coupables; en second lieu: je ne pouvais pas surveiller dans trois endroits tout à la fois, et en troisième lieu je poserai la question: La Commission, elle-même, n'a trouvé possible d'accuser que deux gens de grades inférieurs; et si pour le temps d'une marche de douze jours on a trouvé parmi 1,100 hommes ou, avec plus de précision, parmi 900 hommes de la droujina de Haskeui, seulement deux coupables, l'honneur dû doit être rendu au Capitaine Labanovski pour une telle discipline dans sa droujina!

Le Capitaine Timoféyeff ne peut pas être accusé d'avoir incendié; à tout ce qui a été dit de lui plus haut j'ajouterai que le Capitaine Timoféyeff est si sérieux et que pendant la dernière guerre il a vu tant de scènes désolantes de dévastation, qu'il est ridicule de supposer qu'il irait s'amuser à incendier quelque cabane que ce soit. Quand aux deux brigands qu'il a fait faire fouetter assez rudement—prenant en considération que l'un d'eux a tué en temps de l'occupation un officier Russe des Dragons et qu'il s'en vantait publiquement en montrant le revolver du tué, on se demande qui est ce qui n'aurait pas même usé plus de sévérité envers cet individu? Ce sentiment est compréhensible à chacun.

Le Capitaine Nicolayeff me déclara qu'il avait acheté le tabac et la vache avec le veau, et qu'il a envoyé le tout à Haskeui. A-t-il pris encore quelque autre chose, je n'en savais rien: j'étais toujours sur les devants du détachement, et c'est la gendarmerie qui surveillait l'ordre sur les derrières.

Je ne sais rien du Lieutenant Engelhardt; je pense qu'il était difficile de prendre quelque chose des villages abandonnés, d'où l'on avait emmené les bestiaux au delà de l'Arda; puis on dit que les habitants des villages par lesquels il a passé ne se sont pas plaints de lui devant la Commission.

Quant au Sous-Lieutenant Dobroff, il m'est connu qu'il a brûlé deux écuries à Karamoussalar pour anéantir les cartouches qui s'y trouvaient; néanmoins, j'en ai fait mon rapport au Général; mais le Turc qui soi-disant fut blessé par lui, confronté avec lui devant les membres de la Commission, déclare que c'est la première fois qu'il voit le Sous-Lieutenant Dobroff, et que ce dernier ne l'avait même pas touché.

Voilà tous les éclaircissements et toutes les remarques que j'avais à présenter à votre Altesse, au sujet du Rapport de la Commission. Il me reste de laisser à votre justice le jugement sur mon éloignement de ma droujina et sur l'arrêt de soixante-quatre jours auxquels je fus soumis sans nulle raison.

(Signé) Capitaine YACHEROFF.

Plovdiv, le 6 Juin, 1880.

No. 109.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 299.)
My Lord,

Philippopoli, June 26, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a list, giving the total number of recruits whose names have been entered in the military registers of the province for enlistment into the militia.

As your Lordship will observe, a considerable proportion of these are drawn from

the Turkish population, who, I am informed, have shown marked alacrity this year in presenting themselves for enlistment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

Inclosure in No. 109.

LISTE des Jeunes Gens qui ont achevé le 1er Janvier leur 20e Année, et qui sont inscrits dans la Liste de Recrutement.

District Militaire.	Total.	Bulgares.	Grecs.	Turcs.	Juifs.	Arméniens.	Bohémiens.
Premier District de Philippopoli ..	727	545	26	139	..	7	6
Deuxième District de Philippopoli ..	241	132	59	42	..	..	8
District de Bazardjik	636	505	13	101	6	1	7
„ de Carlova	660	548	..	96	..	..	16
„ de Kezanlik	838	568	..	268	2	..	..
„ d'Eski-Zagra	697	442	..	141	..	..	114
„ de Slivno	704	499	..	116	5	5	79
„ de Yamboli	1,129	850	194	60	13	..	12
„ d'Heemanli	559	357	14	188	..	..	..
„ d'Haskeuï	663	434	..	229	..	..	..
„ d'Aïdos	307	190	..	115	1	..	1
„ de Bourgas	430	192	149	82	6	1	..
Total	7,588	5,262	457	1,577	33	14	245

Philippopoli, le 17 Mai, 1880.

No. 110.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 300.)
My Lord,

Philippopoli, June 26, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that General Strecker has issued a Circular, copy of which I herewith inclose, stating that, the "Registre Matricule," specified in Article 370 of the Organic Statute, having now been drawn up, the Decrees of the Governor-General, dated the 30th and 31st October last, enrolling the gymnasts in the reserve and prescribing weekly drill, must forthwith be carried out.

Your Lordship will observe that in the Recruiting Table, of which I have likewise the honour to inclose a copy, all the nationalities in the province are represented, and that the age prescribed ranges from 21 to 31 inclusive; the gross figures being as follows:—Bulgarians, 40,736; Turks, 11,873; Greeks, 2,236; Jews, 202; Armenians, 103; Gypsies, 257; others, 100; in all 55,507, that is say 40,737 Bulgarians, and 14,770 Turks, Greeks, Jews, Armenians, and others. From this total, however, must be deducted those prevented from bodily ailment or from other causes from bearing arms.

It is estimated that the total number will thus be reduced to 36,000, of which, if the proportions remain the same, 26,280 will be Bulgarians and 9,720 Turks, Greeks, Armenians, &c.

As the Bulgarians are sufficiently supplied with Krinka rifles which, as your Lordship will remember, were given to them by the Russians, and with which, in their capacity of gymnasts, they have for a long time been drilling, the Government will not be called upon to furnish this portion of the population with any arms. As regards the other nationalities it is otherwise. They possess no arms whatever, and I have failed to find in the above-mentioned Circular a clause signifying that it is the intention of the Government to supply them with any. Should, therefore, any Mussulmans or Greeks be encouraged to present themselves at drill practice, they will find themselves at the outset placed at a disadvantage, which, in the present state of feeling in the province, it is to be feared, the Bulgarian section will do little to alleviate.

I would also venture to point out to your Lordship that, although mention is made in the Circular of special military instructors and drilling sergeants, no Ordinance appointing them or defining their duties has as yet, to my knowledge, been issued.

I learn, nevertheless, that, on the strength of General Strecker's new order, military exercises, in which Bulgarians alone take part, have recommenced in all the chief towns of the province.

It is, consequently, to be feared that for the present the only effect of this Circular will be to impart legality to the drilling of the gymnasts and to revive extravagant political dreams.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 110.

Ordre Circulaire pour tous les Commandants Militaires.

(Traduction.) *Philippopoli, le 29 Mai*, 1880.

L'INSCRIPTION des réservistes des deux bans et de la réserve de la milice, qui a été ordonné pas son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général par ses ordres Nos. 18 et 19 du 30 et 31 Octobre, 1879, étant finie et les registres des districts militaires, regardant ces inscrits, étant établis maintenant, j'ordonne à MM. les Commandants Militaires de prendre immédiatement les mesures nécessaires pour mettre en exécution le contenu de l'ordre susmentionné concernant les exercices régulières des réservistes inscrits.

Son Excellence a ordonné que dès le 1er Avril jusqu'au 20 Août, 1880, les exercices des réservistes inscrits auront lieu dans les communes tous les jours de Dimanche et cela sur l'ordre et sous la surveillance des autorités militaires.

Je prescris à MM. les Commandants Militaires de prendre immédiatement les mesures suivantes et donner par l'intermédiaire des Chefs de Canton les ordres nécessaires aux Maires des communes appartenantes à leur district militaire :—

1. Les listes des inscrits seront à établir par communes.

2. Les Commandants Militaires désigneront, d'après la liste des anciens soldats déjà établies, dans chaque commune " starchi " des inscrits auquel sera remis la liste nominale des inscrits de la commune.

3. Les Commandants Militaires désigneront dans chaque commune entre les anciens soldats les maîtres d'exercice et instructeurs.

4. En se référant au Circulaire de M. le Secrétaire-Général du 5 Février, 1880, No. 573, communiqué par moi aux Commandants Militaires sous No. 215 du 7 Février, 1880, MM. les Commandants Militaires communiqueront à MM. le Préfet et Baillis que dès à présent les exercices régulières auront lieu dans les communes chaque jour de Dimanche, et ils demanderont de ces autorités de porter ces ordres à la connaissance des Maires de toutes les communes de leur canton.

5. Les listes nominales des inscrits, établies par communes, ainsi que les désignations du " starchi " des inscrits d'une commune et les noms des gens désignés comme instructeurs sont à remettre aux Baillis avec la demande de transmettre ces listes aux Maires de la commune concernant.

6. Tant que le service le permettra les Commandants Militaires doivent faire surveiller les exercices dans la garnison de leur droujine par un officier.

7. MM. les Commandants Militaires veuillent donner les ordres afin que les exercices seront exécutés avec grande attention et ponctualité, et qu'elles se font aussi en détail, et qu'une grande attention sera mise à leur enseigner le maniement des armes et surtout la manière à viser.

8. MM. les Commandants eux-mêmes surveilleront tout ce que leur service le permet les exercices, et ils se rendront compte que sera donné suite aux ordres qu'ils donneront pour l'exécution des exercices.

Inclosure 2 in No. 110.

Liste des Réservistes du 1er Ban, du 2me Ban, et de la Réserve de la Milice inscrits dans les Registres des Districts Militaires.

District Militaire.	1er Ban.				2me Ban.				Réserve.				Bulgares.	Grecs.	Arméniens.	Turcs.	Juifs.	Bohémiens.	Et autres.	Total.
	Réserve.	Hommes de 21 ans.	Hommes de 22 ans.	Hommes de 23 ans.	Hommes de 24 ans.	Hommes de 25 ans.	Hommes de 26 ans.	Hommes de 27 ans.	Hommes de 28 ans.	Hommes de 29 ans.	Hommes de 30 ans.	Hommes de 31 ans.								
Premier District de Philippopoli	..	357	514	586	486	709	651	486	601	491	816	498	4,914	196	69	700	.. 3	33	..	5,932
Deuxième District de Philippopoli	..	213	261	290	257	407	389	257	487	245	400	251	1,944	781	.. 11	618	59	55	..	3,837
District de Hasardjik	..	263	496	512	397	550	389	307	583	187	679	281	3,721	38	..	552	..	52	..	4,133
.. de Carlova	..	342	570	456	449	735	440	358	560	263	670	283	4,169	..	..	583	.. 6	..	..	5,092
.. de Kyrnnlek	..	384	642	515	446	889	591	381	753	293	918	370	4,775	..	..	1,316	..	.. 5	..	6,099
.. d'Ichtiman	..	272	600	551	668	811	566	392	700	315	686	185	4,983	..	..	730	.. 29	39	..	5,749
.. de Sirnp	..	295	945	262	538	261	246	537	134	707	122	405	3,268	..	.. 27	489	..	..	..	3,852
.. de Vakholi	..	252	300	260	245	608	442	267	561	201	613	128	3,031	.. 51	..	974	..	.. 19	.. 94	4,065
.. d'Hermanly	..	285	783	327	418	1,017	725	371	960	205	1,103	189	5,112	896	..	183	.. 60	..	..	6,663
.. d'Ak-sear	..	308	605	326	368	893	589	316	787	258	916	213	3,142	..	..	3,356	.. 12	..	..	5,507
.. d'Akhios ..	..	104	258	152	107	578	367	167	509	82	295	80	1,578	..	..	1,024	.. 23	.. 39	..	3,165
.. de Bourgas	..	93	103	97	76	241	121	92	272	85	285	50	1,092	274	.. 6	160	.. 9	19	.. 6	1,561
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40,735	2,286	103	11,873	202	357	100	55,500

Philippopoli, le 29 Mai, 1880.

No. 111.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 8.*)

(No. 34.) *Buyukdéré, June 28, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 27, I now have the honour to inclose a copy of the *compte-rendu* of the first meeting of the Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 111.

Compte-rendu.—Séance No. 1, tenue le 5/17 Juin, 1880 (9 Rédjeb, 1297), au Lycée Impérial de Galata-Séraï à Constantinople.

LES Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin ayant chargé, en vertu de l'Article XXIII de ce Traité, la Commission Européenne de la Roumélie Orientale de donner son avis sur le Projet de réformes à appliquer aux Provinces de la Turquie d'Europe présenté par la Sublime Porte, les Commissaires de l'Allemagne, de l'Autriche-Hongrie, de la France, de la Grande Bretagne, de l'Italie, de la Russie, et de la Turquie se sont réunis le 17 Juin, 1880, à 1 heure de l'après-midi au Lycée Impérial de Galata-Séraï à Constantinople.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig, Secrétaire de l'Ambassade Impériale d'Allemagne à Constantinople.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
Le Baron de Kosjek, Conseiller de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale Apostolique à Constantinople.

Pour la France—
M. Aubaret, Consul-Général.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Lord E. Fitzmaurice, Membre du Parlement.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni, Premier Drogman de la Légation d'Italie à Constantinople.

Pour la Russie—
M. Hitrovo, Conseiller d'Etat actuel, Consul-Général.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha, Vizir, Membre du Sénat ;
Abro Effendi, Fonctionnaire de 1re Rang, 1re Classe, Conseiller d'Etat.

La séance étant ouverte à 1 heure après-midi, M. le Commissaire d'Italie, ancien membre de la Commission pour l'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale, s'appuyant sur les principes admis par la dite Commission, propose, qu'à titre de courtoisie, la Présidence soit offerte à son Excellence Assim Pacha.

Cette proposition étant agréée à l'unanimité, son Excellence Assim Pacha prend place au fauteuil de la Présidence et remercie en quelques mots ses honorables collègues.

La Commission s'occupe ensuite de la formation de son bureau.

De l'avis commun, M. Séon, Secrétaire de la Délégation de France, est choisi comme Secrétaire de la Commission.

Il est, en outre, convenu que M. Séon sera assisté de MM. Cartwright, Secrétaire d'Ambassade de la Grande Bretagne, de Gritzenko, attaché à l'Ambassade Impériale de Russie et Réchid Bey, adjoint du Premier Traducteur du Divan Impérial.

Ces messieurs sont introduits et prennent place au bureau.

Les Délégués Ottomans déclarent que le Projet de réformes élaboré par la Sublime Porte n'est pas encore complètement prêt. Ils espèrent pouvoir en soumettre la première parti dans la prochaine séance.

MM. les Commissaires sont unanimement d'avis que les Protocoles de leurs séances seront rédigés sous forme de comptes-rendus sommaires.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha croit pouvoir annoncer que l'imprimerie du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères sera gracieusement mise à la disposition de la Commission.

Passant à la question de savoir si les décisions de la Commission seront prises à l'unanimité ou à la majorité des voix, quelques-uns de MM. les Commissaires font observer que les travaux de la Commission devant se résumer en une opinion, il ne serait pas possible d'exiger l'unanimité qui, *à priori*, ne semble pas, dans l'espèce, pouvoir être obtenue.

Cette manière de voir est successivement adoptée par MM. les Commissaires, et il demeure convenu que les décisions de la Commission seront prises à la majorité des voix. Toutefois il sera réservé à la minorité le droit de faire insérer son opinion au compte-rendu.

M. le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie demande à MM. les Commissaires Ottomans si le Projet de réformes qui doit être par eux soumis à la Commission est un Projet définitivement accepté par la Sublime Porte, et si, à ce titre, il comprendra les divers amendements provenant des Commissions provinciales, amendements que la Sublime Porte aura également acceptés.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha déclare que le Projet de réformes qu'il aura l'honneur de soumettre à la Commission sera un Projet effectivement accepté par son Gouvernement et qu'il comprendra tous les amendements que la Sublime Porte aura cru devoir accepter.

Sur la demande de *M. le Délégué Français, MM. les Commissaires Ottomans* promettent en outre de placer sous les yeux de la Commission tous les amendements, sans distinction, provenant des Commissions provinciales, afin que MM. les Commissaires puissent se rendre compte de ceux de ces amendements qui n'ont pas été acceptés par la Sublime Porte.

MM. les Commissaires d'Italie et de Russie demandent à leurs collègues Ottomans si le Projet de réformes qui a été appliqué à titre d'essai dans les Vilayets d'Andrinople et de Salonique, est le Projet primitif ou le Projet amendé.

Abro Effendi, déclarant ne pouvoir répondre à cette question qu'à titre de renseignement personnel, dit qu'en effet quelques Valis ont demandé l'autorisation d'appliquer à titre provisoire le Projet primitif.

M. le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie désirerait savoir si le Projet qui sera soumis à la Commission doit s'appliquer également à tous les vilayets.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha répond qu'effectivement le Projet sera commun aux cinq vilayets suivants, savoir :

Les Vilayets de Salonique, d'Andrinople, de Monastir, de Janina, et de Kossovo. Une observation étant faite au sujet du Vilayet de Scutari d'Albanie, *MM. les Commissaires Ottomans* affirment que le Vilayet de Scutari d'Albanie n'existe pas, que cette province est un simple sandjak dépendant de Monastir.

M. le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne pense qu'il sera difficile, à cause de la diversité des populations de la Turquie d'Europe, de leur appliquer à toutes la même loi.

Lord Edward Fitzmaurice constate, en outre—et se faisant sur ce point l'interprète de ses collègues—que la Sublime Porte ne s'est pas strictement conformée à l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin, car au lieu de nommer des Commissions Spéciales, comme il est recommandé au Traité, c'est la Sublime Porte elle même qui a élaboré le Projet de réformes qu'elle a plus tard soumis à des Commissions provinciales, pour que, par elles, le dit Projet fût amendé.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha répond que cette observation est juste, mais que la Sublime Porte a agi de la sorte pour venir en aide aux Commissions locales et leur faciliter ainsi une tâche qui aurait été au-dessus de leurs moyens.

Le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne demande si les Délégués Ottomans ont l'intention de présenter à la Commission Européenne une carte détaillée qui lui permettrait de constater avec précision les limites des différents vilayets de la Turquie d'Europe, limites si souvent changées.

Sawas Pacha, à qui Lord E. Fitzmaurice avait fait la même demande, avait promis de faire remettre à la Commission Européenne une carte de la Turquie d'Europe.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha demandera cette carte à la Sublime Porte.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, fixe à Lundi, 21 Juin, la prochaine séance.

(Signé) ASSIM.
ABRO.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KOSJEK.
AUBARET.
ED. FITZMAURICE.
VERNONI.
HITROVO.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) SIR O. CARTWRIGHT.
C. CARTWRIGHT.
GUITZENKO.
M. RÉCHID.

No. 112.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 35.)
My Lord,

Buyukdéré, June 28, 1880.

AN informal meeting of the Commission took place here on Friday, the 25th instant. It was first decided to place upon record, in a more clear and emphatic manner than appeared on the *compte-rendu* of the first meeting, the opinion that the action of the Porte in regard to the preparation of the reform contemplated by Article XXIII had not been in strict conformity with that Article. A long discussion then took place as to the provinces to which the new Project of Law should, in the first place, be made applicable. The Russian and Austro-Hungarian Commissioners agreed with me in thinking it desirable that the discussion should, in the first instance, be limited to the Vilayets of Adrianople and Salonica.

This view, however, was opposed by the French Commissioner, who was supported by the Italian Commissioner. Eventually the German Commissioner suggested we should try to find a compromise. I thereupon suggested the following resolution, which was ultimately agreed to:—

"En abordant l'examen du Projet, la Commission se réserve de se prononcer ultérieurement si et jusqu'à quel point il est réellement applicable aux différentes provinces de la Turquie d'Europe."

The Articles of the new "Projet de Loi" were next examined. I am glad to be able to inform your Lordship that, on the whole, this discussion did not reveal any marked differences of opinion among the Commissioners, except that the French Commissioner is evidently under the impression, not shared by most of his colleagues, that our work can be run through easily and rapidly. Acting upon this impression, he seems disposed to pass over points of importance very lightly, and to minimise the sphere of the action of the Commission. The general opinion of the Commissioners of the Powers was unfavourable to the Projet. They decided that the Cretan Règlement had not been sufficiently kept in view, an opinion urged with especial force by Baron de Kosjek; that the financial budgetary portions of the scheme were not only vague, but unsatisfactory in many of their principal features; that the composition of the Assembly and of the local Councils would require most careful examination in order to prevent the elective being swamped by the nominated element; that the same observation held good of the method of elections, which, though an improvement on the present method, was probably not sufficiently marked improvement; that, while, on the one hand, there were whole chapters of superfluous matter which could with advantage be struck out, there were, on the other hand, subjects of the most vital importance, such as the organization of justice, of the gendarmerie, and of the prisons, which had been entirely omitted; and that above all the new "Projet de Loi" bristled with instances of the qualification or the limitation of the privileges professed to be conceded, by constant references to the approbation or the permission of the central Powers at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 113.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 36.)
My Lord,

Buyukdéré, June 28, 1880.

THE third meeting of the Commissioners took place on Saturday the 26th instant.

At the commencement of the proceedings I moved the following resolution:—

"Les Commissaires, avant d'entamer toute discussion sur le Projet qui leur a été présenté, font leurs réserves sur la procédure suivie par la Sublime Porte au sujet de l'élaboration du dit Projet, et sur la manière dont elle a interprété l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin."

This was carried (the Turkish Commissioner dissenting).

I next moved:—

"En abordant l'examen du Projet, la Commission se réserve de se prononcer ultérieurement si et jusqu'à quel point il est réellement applicable aux différentes provinces de la Turquie d'Europe."

M. Hitrovo asked that the following preamble should be added:—

"En vue de l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin, la Commission déclare que les lois qui lui sont soumises ne sauraient être examinées que dans leur application à des localités définies. En conséquence," &c.

Baron de Kosjek said he would accept the proposed addition on the understanding that the words "localités définies" should be changed into "vilayets spécifiés."

I intimated a similar opinion, and the original Resolution was ultimately adopted with above additions and amendments.

A general discussion then took place of the first 100 Articles of the Projet de Loi, when the same views were expressed as those described in my despatch No. 35 of this day's date.

I confined my own observations to the subject of the equality of the different languages before the law, and to urging on the Turkish Commissioner the necessity of agreeing to a satisfactory settlement of the financial position of the new provinces, not only with a view to the prosperity of the provinces, but also with a view to the security and stability of the Empire itself. I pointed out the vagueness of the language of Article 19, 38, and 80 to 85, which regulated this subject; and I added that, without committing myself, I did not think it probable that, under any circumstances, the frame-work of Article 19 could be considered satisfactory. I also asked the Ottoman Commissioners whether they were deliberately proposing themselves to upset the Agreement with the Galata bankers of the 25th November, 1879, which would be the infallible result of the above Article in its present shape. Under that Agreement the six indirect taxes had been hypothecated by the Empire to the bankers; but, under Article 19, only two of these taxes were reserved absolutely to the Empire. It was, however, I said, to be clearly understood that I was not defending the interests of the Galata bankers, with which the Commission had nothing to do; while, as regarded the Five Powers, they had protested against the Agreement in question, as constituting an interference with the rights of the bondholders under earlier loans. But the indirect result of the Agreement with the Galata bankers had been a reformed system of collection, which was increasing the revenues, and likely to increase them still more, especially if extended to the Customs. The Commission had an interest from the point of view of the maintenance of the Ottoman Empire, in not lightly interfering with an arrangement which was working for good, and the downfall of which was only desired by those who would also gladly hear of the work of the Commission itself. To these observations Assim Pasha made no reply.

The general discussion having closed, the Commission proceeded to discuss the Articles in detail up to No. 19, beyond which I stated at starting I should refuse to proceed. I added that I hoped that before we entered upon a discussion of that Article the Ottoman Commissioners would furnish us with whatever information was at their disposal as to the finances of the various provinces.

The first eighteen Articles consist chiefly of generalities, and were largely altered, with a view to sifting the grain of wheat from the abundance of chaff. I hope very shortly to forward to your Lordship the *compte-rendu* of the meeting, which will show these alterations in detail.

The Commission has decided to sit on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and the Commissioners of the Powers have settled to continue their informal meetings, which they find have greatly tended to make their business advance in a satisfactory manner.

I regret to inform your Lordship that Assim Pasha is totally unfit to perform the duties of President, and I have little doubt that the labours of the Commission will be

greatly prolonged by this circumstance. I mentioned to Mr. Goschen yesterday that I thought that if his Excellency could see his way to persuading the Porte to appoint a third Commissioner of a different stamp from either Assim Pasha or Abro Effendi, he would be doing the Ottoman Empire a service. The observations I have made about Assim Pasha in a previous despatch will have convinced your Lordship that I have nothing except feelings of personal respect for him, and that my objections to his position on the Commission are only owing to the persuasion that he is not fit to defend the interests of his own Government or to carry on the business. The result has been to make Abro Effendi the principal Ottoman Commissioner: a result which carries its own condemnation with it in the eyes of everybody who is acquainted with the character and antecedents of that Armenian statesman.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 114.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 8.)

(No. 37.)
Buyukdéré, June 28, 1880.

My Lord,

AT the meetings of the Commission on the 24th and 26th instant, the question arose whether the labours of the Commission were to include the Greek Islands of the Ægean and the city and district of Constantinople. A question was asked on the former subject by myself, and on the latter by M. Vernoni, the Italian Commissioner. Assim Pasha stated, in reply, that he would ask for the instructions of his Government on the first point, but that the capital was certainly not included. I thereupon asked, if that was so, why did Article 426 of the Projet de Loi deal with Constantinople?

Assim Pasha said he would apply for instructions to his Government on that point also.

The Vilayet of the Islands, I may mention, includes all the islands of the Ægean belonging to the Ottoman Empire, and a small part of the mainland of Asia Minor.

I stated, on the 26th instant, that it appeared to me that, in any case, the Islands of Thasos, Imbros, Samothrace, and Lemnos came within the terms of Article XXIII.

I have been informed that the Islands of Karpathos and Kasco desire annexation to Crete.

I think it right to call your Lordship's attention to the above points, and to ask for instructions how to act in the event of the Ottoman Commissioners being instructed to declare Constantinople and the islands outside the limits of the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 115.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 8.)

(No. 39.)
Buyukdéré, June 28, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAD an interview with Khaireddin Pasha on the 8th June. His Highness dwelt very strongly on the necessity of combining the restoration of the Ottoman Parliament at Constantinople with the establishment of Local Assemblies in the provinces. The latter reform, he said, he assumed to be the necessary consequence of the labours of the Commission.

If, he added, the latter was done without the former, the arms and legs of the Empire would prove too strong for its head. There was no instance in history of an Empire despotically governed at the centre, but having free constitutions in the provinces, holding together for any length of time.

In connection with this subject I may make the following observations:—One of the privileges given to the Island of Crete was that of drawing up a Code of Civil and Criminal Procedure. If the analogy of the Cretan Règlement is followed exactly, a similar right will have to be conferred upon the new Provincial Assemblies. But if this is done, the danger will at once arise of one practice being adopted in one province and another in another, and of great confusion in consequence ensuing.

It might be possible to get over this difficulty, and at the same time to make a

beginning of Parliamentary institutions in Turkey, if the members of the new Local Assemblies, or delegations from them, were summoned to Constantinople to settle the new Code. This would not prevent the Commission making some temporary provisions on the subject, such as those contained in the Cretan Règlement of 1868. (See Correspondence relating to the Disturbances in Crete presented to Parliament, 2nd December, 1867, p. 71.)

A new Code of Civil and Criminal Procedure, as your Lordship is aware, was recently issued by the Ministry of Saïd Pasha. I hear it universally condemned. The proposal I have just made would afford a ground for the utter rejection of that Code, and would, for that very reason, commend itself all the more to the sentiment of the population.

It may be argued that no Assembly in this part of the world can deal with such a subject as legal procedure.

My reply is that the Cretan Assembly dealt with it.

They wisely decided not to interfere with the details, but, having laid down certain general principles, on the advice of Photiades Pasha, they entrusted the work to M. Schalzouni, an eminent Greek lawyer—I believe of the University of Athens—and they accepted the result of his labours.

Your Lordship will, perhaps, be of opinion that there are other Assemblies besides the future Ottoman Parliament which might do well to follow the example of the Cretan Assembly in the matter of the codification of the law.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 116.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 8.)

(No. 40.)
Buyukdéré, July 1, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 32, reporting upon the second meeting of the European Commission on the 24th ultimo, I have now the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of the *compte-rendu* for that meeting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 116.

Compte-rendu.—Séance No. 2, *tenue le* $\frac{13}{25}$ *Juin*, 1880 (16 *Rédjeb*, 1297), *au Lycée Impérial de Galata-Séraï à Constantinople.*

Présidence de son Excellence ASSIM PACHA.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig, Secrétaire de l'Ambassade Impériale d'Allemagne à Constantinople.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
Le Baron de Kosjek, Conseiller de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale Apostolique à Constantinople.

Pour la France—
M. Aubaret, Consul-Général.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Lord E. Fitzmaurice, Membre du Parlement.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni, Premier Drogman de la Légation d'Italie à Constantinople.

Pour la Russie—
M. Hitrovo, Conseiller d'Etat actuel, Consul-Général.

Pour la Turquie:
Son Excellence Assim Pacha, Vizir, Membre du Sénat;
Abro Effendi, Fonctionnaire de 1re Rang, 1re Classe, Conseiller d'Etat.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure.
Le compte-rendu de la précédente séance, lu par M. Séon, est adopté.

MM. les Commissaires Ottomans déposent sur le bureau : (1) un exemplaire Français et Turc du Projet de Règlement avec les corrections faites par la Sublime Porte aux 100 premiers Articles du dit Projet ; (2) six exemplaires du même Projet contenant tous les amendements proposés par les Commissions locales se rapportant aux 100 susdits Articles.

Le Baron de Kosjek, tout en constatant avec regret que la Sublime Porte ne présente à la Commission Européenne qu'un seul et unique Projet pour toutes les provinces de la Turquie d'Europe, désirerait savoir quand MM. les Commissaires Ottomans seront en mesure de présenter la suite du Projet.

MM. les Délégués Ottomans déclarent qu'ils soumettront sous peu la suite du dit projet.

Le Chevalier Vernoni demande si le Projet de Règlement, présenté par la Sublime Porte, doit être appliqué à la capitale et à sa banlieue.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice, considérant les Iles de l'Archipel comme faisant partie des possessions Européennes de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, exprime le désir de savoir si la Sublime Porte n'a pas l'entention de leur appliquer le Projet de réformes.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha répond que d'après ses instructions, le Projet ne se rapporte qu'aux cinq Vilayets—d'Andrinople, Monastir, Kossovo, Janina, et Salonique.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice fait alors remarquer que l'Article 426 du Projet, élaboré par la Sublime Porte, semble comprendre Constantinople dans la sphère d'action du dit Projet.

MM. les Commissaires Ottomans consulteront la Sublime Porte à ce sujet.

MM. les Commissaires de France et de la Grande Bretagne estiment que, tout le Projet ayant été, en principe, déposé, la Commission peut, dès sa prochaine séance, commencer la discussion des 100 Articles définitifs du dit Projet.

Tous les Commissaires abondant dans ce sens, *le Président*, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée à Samedi, 26 Juin, la discussion des 100 Articles définitifs du Projet.

La séance est levée à 3 heures et demie.

(Signé) ASSIM.
ARRO.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KOSJEK.
AUBARET.
ED. FITZMAURICE.
VERNONI.
HITROVO.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) SÉON.
C. CARTWRIGHT.
GRITZENKO.
M. RÉCHID.

No. 117.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 88. Very Confidential.)

Therapia, June 29, 1880.

My Lord,

MY French colleague was good enough to supply me with a copy of the inclosed document, purporting to be a letter of Abédine Pasha to the Albanian Chiefs, written on his appointment to the Ministry. The document, I learned, was offered to and brought by the Greek Minister here, who apparently communicated it to some of his colleagues. The style is certainly similar to that of a speech delivered by Abédine Pasha at Salonica.

When I saw his Excellency yesterday I alluded in very pointed terms to the allégations that both he and his brother, Wessel Bey, had stirred up the Albanians. I used phrases taken from the alléged letter itself, and, without telling his Excellency that I had seen a copy of an alleged letter, I went as near it as possible.

Abédine Pasha, without any embarrassment, declared point blank that since he had gone to Diarbekir he had been in no communication with Albanian Chiefs; that his brother had certainly acted with them; that he had now pointed out to him that he would compromise his own position as Minister for Foreign Affairs, if, being his brother, he incited the Chiefs, and that his brother had promised to be quiescent, though not to

dissuade the Chiefs from acting. I then put the question in the plainest and most direct terms, "Am I to understand that neither by word or letter have you addressed yourself to Albanian friends, calling on their patriotism, and giving them advice since you have been Minister for Foreign Affairs?" He said, "Certainly I have not; so far from it, I have refrained from answering the congratulatory letters which I have received from Albanian friends, because I feared they would show my letters about, for I count, as a great personage among them, they have a great affection for me."

I am bound to say that, though I almost unduly pressed his Excellency, and gave him every opportunity to explain the letter, which, to anyone who had written it, it must have been obvious I had seen, Abédine Pasha did not flinch at any point of the conversation, and seemed unconscious of what was really my aim.

At the same time, his Excellency does not in the least conceal his intense Albanian feeling and proclivities, nor his conviction that the Albanians will fight, and that it is natural and patriotic for them to do so. The question of the authenticity of the letter is therefore interesting, rather from the point of view of his truthfulness and character than for that of his political opinions.

I thought it right not to accept the Circular without giving the Minister the opportunity of an explanation. But for the confidential way in which the document was communicated to me I should have liked to have produced it to Abédine Pasha himself.

Your Lordship, in your despatch No. 70 of the 10th instant, called my attention to the proceedings of Wessel Bey, and your Lordship will have seen from my foregoing remarks that I have not failed to inquire about him, and that his proceedings derive additional importance from his relationship to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

P.S.—*July 2.* Since the above was written I have received a telegram from Captain Sale, stating that he has sent home a copy of an address to Albanian Chiefs at Janina, sent by Wessel Bey with the approval of the Sultan. On hearing this I asked Mr. St. John, the First Secretary of Her Majesty's Embassy, to see Abédine Pasha, and to tell him that the same mail would convey to the English Government a declaration from him that his brother, Wessel Bey, was no longer inciting the Albanian Chiefs, and at the same time a copy of an inflammatory telegram sent by Wessel Bey to Janina. Did he wish to modify his statement? He replied distinctly in the negative, and sent for his brother, who declared to Mr. St. John that he had only sent one telegram to Prisrend some time ago, which was to the effect that the Albanians were to desist from resistance any longer, and simply to put their case before the Powers. I feel quite unable to judge to what extent Abédine Pasha is telling the truth, but Mr. St. John states that he was most explicit in his declarations.

G. J. G.

Inclosure in No. 117.

Confidential Circular addressed by Abédine Pasha to the Chiefs of the Albanian League.

(Traduction.)

LE Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Imperiale le Sultan m'a relevé de mes fonctions de Gouverneur de Salonique que j'occupais depuis peu de temps, grâce à la haute sollicitude de notre auguste Maître le Sultan à l'égard de notre nation Albanaise plutôt que pour mon modeste mérite.

Vous avez déjà été informés de mon départ de cette dernière ville et ma nomination à Constantinople comme Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, poste que je n'espérais jamais atteindre. Mais j'avais toujours désiré le voir occupé, sinon par un Albanais, du moins par un ami sincère de l'Albanie, appréciant à leur valeur la situation politique et géographique de ce pays, afin qu'il puisse exposer en toute conviction à l'Europe les causes de ses convulsions périodiques.

Mais par une faveur exceptionnelle de la Divine Providence mes vœux ont été exaucés bien au delà de mes espérances en m'appelant à gérer ce poste si important dans le moment actuel, si décisif et si critique à la fois pour notre cause nationale.

Que le Très-Haut m'accorde l'intelligence nécessaire pour accomplir ma tâche en respectant nos aspirations nationales. Je sais que votre confiance m'est acquise à la suite des preuves nombreuses que je vous ai données de mon attachement à la commune patrie ; de même que mes frères et mes autres parents, toujours dévoués à la bonne cause, j'ai fait

serment de consacrer ma vie entière à travailler pour la félicité et le bonheur de l'Albanie. Vous connaissez donc les sentiments qui m'animent, et de mon côté j'ai foi en votre patriotisme et en votre dévouement que je sais être à la hauteur des circonstances. Je vous adjure donc d'écouter mes conseils. Ils sont aussi ceux du Gouvernement paternel de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, et ont pour but de vous prémunir contre les intrigues de l'étranger et contre les provocations de nos adversaires, dont le but est de compromettre la cause de l'Albanie aux yeux de l'Europe et à ceux du Gouvernement Ottoman.

Une Conférence se réunit à Berlin pour résoudre définitivement la question Hellénique. Grâce aux sages mesures prises par le Gouvernement Impérial j'ai quelques raisons de croire que les résolutions ne seront pas préjudiciables aux intérêts de l'Albanie. Le concours des Puissances qui trouvent avantage à la conservation intacte de la vieille Albanie ne nous fera pas défaut. Mais tout en étant rassuré sur l'issue finale de la question Hellénique si menaçante pour notre pays, je dois en même temps vous conseiller de ne pas rester inactifs vis-à-vis des négociations de Berlin. Lorsqu'un dernier mot va être prononcé sur le point essentiel de la nation Albanaise, vous devez songer à la défense de vos droits. Et s'il vous manque le temps de préparer et d'envoyer à Berlin une Délégation spéciale chargée de vos pouvoirs, il faut au moins que vous vous assembliez en Conseil Général pour rédiger des pétitions exposant vos vœux et vos droits légitimes et d'en transmettre aussitôt et télégraphiquement le texte à Berlin. Vous seconderez ainsi ceux qui voudraient plaider votre cause devant ce haut Tribunal Européen. De mon côté j'ai déjà réuni les Notables Albanais de Constantinople, qui ont préparé la pétition dont je vous joins ici une copie.

Les convoitises que les Monténégrins nourrissent contre les territoires Albanais ont heureusement été abandonnées à l'entente ultérieure des Puissances. Je suis persuadé qu'aussi de ce côté la question sera résolue à notre grand avantage. Mais je me réserve de vous édifier à ce sujet dans une Commission ultérieure.

Le principal désir de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan en m'appelant aux fonctions de Ministre du Hardjié était de vous donner un aperçu nouveau de l'immense et éclatant intérêt que ce magnanime Souverain porte à l'Albanie, que de liens vitaux attachent à tous les intérêts de l'Empire. L'existence de la Turquie en Europe est, en effet, intimement liée à l'existence de l'Albanie. C'est une question de vie qui est identique pour toutes les deux. Tous les efforts du Gouvernement Impérial tendront donc à rendre l'Albanie grande et forte, marchant ainsi de front avec les Puissances intéressées au maintien de l'Empire Ottoman en Europe. La Sublime Porte vous mettra à l'abri des convoitises de vos voisins pour que vous formiez à votre tour dans l'avenir une barrière infranchissable contre l'ambition d'un ennemi qui cherche à s'agrandir à vos dépens. L'Albanie doit être grande et forte parce que le rôle qui lui est destiné est grand.

Marchez unis et fermes, d'accord surtout avec vos compatriotes Chrétiens. Ils sont aussi les enfants de la même patrie. Telle est la logique de la situation et la volonté suprême de notre magnanime Souverain. Le moindre désaccord parmi vous, le moindre écart ou indifférence aux décisions du Sultan sera une faute irréparable et compromettra la cause des Albanais en favorisant les espérances des ennemis de la Turquie.

Je prie constamment la Divine Providence de vous accorder faveurs et prospérité. Priez-là de votre côté de m'accorder la force nécessaire pour travailler avec succès à la cause nationale, et aux intérêts généraux de l'Empire.

(Cachet) ABÉDINE.

Stamboul, 4 Redjel, 1297.)

No. 118.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 89.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June* 29, 1880.

LORD E. FITZMAURICE, in a despatch to your Lordship sent by this messenger, calls attention to the fact that the Turkish Commissioners, Assim Pasha and Abro Effendi, have not sufficient capacity for the difficult and important work with which they have been intrusted by their Government. His Lordship spoke to me on the subject, and requested me to use my best influence with the Porte to have another Turkish Commissioner added who might be able to render real assistance to the Commission. It was desirable that one Turkish Commissioner at least should be able to give adequate attention to the various points which are raised in the discussions of the Commission, and be in a position to answer such questions as are put to the Representatives of the Turkish Government with intelligence and weight.

I took an opportunity of urging this view on Abédine Pasha to-day. His Excellency expressed his satisfaction at the communication and promised to give it immediate attention. At Lord E. Fitzmaurice's wish I mentioned the name of Wassa Effendi, the able Mutessarif of Adrianople, as a fit man. Abédine Pasha said that he entirely agreed with the suggestion, and had little doubt that he would be named at once, the only difficulty being that Réouf Pasha, the Governor of Adrianople, was unwell, and urgently required leave, in which case it had been intended that Wassa Effendi should take his place.

I did not fail to point out to Abédine Pasha the very great importance of placing a thoroughly capable man to represent the Turkish Government on a Commission, the result of whose labours would have such a vital bearing on the future of the Ottoman Empire.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice also spoke to me with regard to Article 19 of the proposed Projet de Loi, which deals with finance, and asked my opinion on several issues which are involved in that Article. These questions are so important that I feel it my duty to call your Lordship's special attention to them.

The Article relates to the proportion of the revenues of the province which would fall respectively to the Local Administration and the Public Treasury. Lord E. Fitzmaurice has communicated the text of the Article to your Lordship in his despatch of the 1st June, and in other despatches he has pointed out how vague and unsatisfactory the Article is. Substantially, however, it has been declared to mean that the cost of the Local Administration was to be paid first, and that of the remainder 10 per cent. is to be devoted to certain specified local purposes, and the remainder to Imperial purposes. The proper proportion to be taken will naturally form the subject of warm debate, and may be treated in the first instance as involving local and provincial interests on the one hand, and military and central expenditure on the other. But I have drawn Lord E. Fitzmaurice's attention to the fact that it would be a delicate matter for the Commission to settle this point unless they come to a preliminary conclusion as to the whole future financial requirements of the Turkish Empire. In the case of Eastern Roumelia one province only was dealt with, but as the proposed Projet de Loi will extend to all the remaining provinces of European Turkey, the question involved no longer affects the local interests alone, but its solution must determine the whole future budget of the Empire. Nor can a judgment be formed till it is known how much revenue will be derived from the Asiatic provinces. A thorough financial investigation would therefore be necessary before the Commission could draw any reliable conclusions. Lord E. Fitzmaurice had not failed to foresee this point. He has been engaged with great industry and intelligence in collecting various statistics relating to the finance of the Empire.

But it is a question how far his colleagues and the Governments they represent will be ready for the financial inquiry which is necessary. If they undertake it, I would urge that it cannot be treated as a side issue to the Organic Statute, but as a substantive inquiry necessary to the other, but most important in itself. Your Lordship will perceive that if the financial question is not very carefully dealt with, the Porte might subsequently declare its inability to meet any of its engagements, or to propose any scheme for the repayment of its debt, because the European members of the Commission had declared that the provinces constituting the Empire could only remit a certain proportion to the Central Government, which proportion was not more than sufficient to meet certain indispensable payments.

I choose this point only as one illustration of the many issues which may be raised. It appears to me that there are only two courses open—either to make a thorough financial investigation, equal in thoroughness to that contemplated by the Treaty of Berlin, and alluded to in my instructions, or to leave the Article in the Organic Statute sufficiently elastic as not to predetermine to too great an extent the future limits of Imperial revenue and expenditure, leaving these to be settled as the results of a separate financial inquiry, embracing not only the European provinces included in the labours of the present Commission, but the Asiatic dominions as well.

I have thought it my duty to call your Lordship's attention to this subject, as great future difficulties might arise if the whole of the issues involved are not thoroughly understood by all the Governments concerned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 119.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 90.) *Therapia, June 29, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's perusal, a memorandum derived from information which I have received from a confidential and trustworthy source upon the conflict of races which has been created through the Organic Statute elaborated last year for Eastern Roumelia by the International Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 119.

Memorandum on the Conflict of Races in Eastern Roumelia.

IN Eastern Roumelia the Organic Statute has given rise to a conflict of races.

The Mussulmans are incapable of conceiving any other rule upon Ottoman soil than that of the Sultan. To them the principle of equality has no significance, and they cannot regard a Government which recognizes it as anything but temporary.

The Greeks, though not perhaps very zealous for the success of the new institutions, wish to see them carried into effect if for no other reason than that these institutions assure to them that very equality which is rejected by the Mussulman.

But they look back upon their past. Their intelligence, their commercial activity, and the influence of their clergy, had given them before the war a commanding influence in the Government. After it, their relations with the Bulgarians became changed; for the latter obtained, as the result of the war, a real superiority over the other races, and an opening to public employment which they never had before.

But, while the Greeks are accusing the Local Government of incapacity and partiality on account of the Bulgarians, the Bulgarians themselves are opposing the greatest obstacles to a settled Government and to the tranquillity of the country. Their dissensions with the Greeks and Mussulmans have begun to be reflected in the Government itself. Looking to the Treaty of San Stefano, they reject the provisions of a Statute founded on the Treaty of Berlin, which, in their view, ignored the rights gained for them by the former. Regarding themselves as Lords of the soil, they have not shrunk from acts of cruelty and violence towards the Mussulman population, which is emigrating in consequence.

The prosecution against the Mussulmans may have been exaggerated, but their poverty and discontent are indisputable, although the persecution to which they are subjected is not a systematic one.

The situation, though certainly a difficult one, could be easily foreseen, and it is one which time only can remedy.

No. 120.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 92.) *Therapia, June 29, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Lordship's despatches Nos. 99 and 106 relating to the Anglo-French proposal for the rectification of the Greek frontier, and your telegrams respecting the discussion of that line by the Berlin Conference, and its final unanimous acceptance.

I observe that it was at one time contended by Russia that the new territory assigned to Greece on the Ægean side was in excess of the original line agreed on by the first Congress. This contention was not put forward by Russia as an objection, but it was argued that as a matter of fact such was the case.

I should be glad if your Lordship will cause me to be furnished with the necessary information and arguments to prove that the line as now drawn is in uniformity with the spirit if not the letter of the conclusion arrived at by the first Congress, and embodied as an expression of opinion in the Berlin Treaty. At first sight it certainly appears as if a larger amount of territory was to be yielded by Turkey in the direction of Mount Olympus than had been originally contemplated. I have observed strategical arguments which have

been put forward with regard to the many points of the line to show the expediency of the proposal from the point of view of the interests of Greece, but as it may be necessary for me to convince the Turkish Government that consideration has been also shown towards the Ottoman Empire, and that all the modifications, if any, of the Berlin Treaty have not been in favour of Greece, it will be necessary for me to receive full details in this respect.

As it is, your Lordship is aware that the Turkish Government will not recognize that what has taken place is mediation. However the point is argued, they stand to their contention that the line drawn at Berlin was only "a wish" on the part of the Powers, that the Powers did not think it right to enforce that wish as they had enforced other changes of boundary in the case of Servia, Bulgaria, and Montenegro, that it was clear that having expressed a wish which they were not prepared to enforce, it must be regarded as a maximum, and that medintion or compromise would naturally arise as between the present frontier and that maximum.

The Sublime Porte were naturally prepared; from all they had heard, that what they considered hard terms would now be imposed on them, in fact much harder terms than would have sufficed to settle the question some time ago; but to the last they seem to have blinded themselves to the probability that on the side of Epirus, as on the side of Thessaly, the extreme interpretation of the Berlin line would be enforced against them.

The Turks are becoming aware of the real situation through what has become public in various newspapers as to the proceedings at Berlin, and there can be no doubt that their consternation is extreme.

There is a second point on which it would also be well to furnish me with a reply to what will certainly be urged at Constantinople; in fact, allusion has already been made to the point. In my instructions it is stated that Her Majesty's Government do not desire that there should be any forcible annexation to the latter country (Greece) of an unwilling Mussulman population in such numbers as to be a source of danger and insecurity. This wish on the part of Her Majesty's Government has throughout been present to my view, and has created that anxiety with regard to the Albanians with which I have already troubled your Lordship so often.

I had a long interview with Abédine Pasha yesterday on various important pending questions, but I did not raise the question of the Greek frontier, as I was not in a position yet to be able to communicate or to discuss the decision of the Conference officially. His Excellency, however, showed the greatest anxiety to place the views of his Government before me on the assumption that what he had seen in the newspapers was correct, and incidentally he stated that he had been reading my instructions as published in French in a Turkish newspaper, and he had noted that the English Government were averse to compelling the surrender of a Mussulman population.

I reminded him that the phrase he quoted involved the question of "such numbers as would be a source of danger," but he replied that in Epirus there was a whole breadth of territory south of the Kalamas, and down as far as the Gulf of Arta, which was pure Albanian, and would resist annexation to the last. He took out maps and explained the various districts which he alleged could not be annexed on the principle laid down in my instructions, and he dwelt especially on the fact that there were innumerable villages where not a single woman could speak anything but Turkish.

I listened respectfully, but I was bound to consider that his Excellency was making an *ex parte* statement, and that the nationality of the populations had been carefully and exhaustively studied before the line was agreed on by the Powers.

There can, however, be no doubt whatever that in Epirus the cession to Greece will create difficulties of the gravest character, and that the Powers cannot look forward to the decision of Berlin being peacefully accepted.

Speaking of that decision as a whole, Abédine Pasha, representing, I believe, the general Turkish feeling on the subject, declared it to be almost a death-blow to European Turkey. On the Ægean side the Turks would find themselves hemmed in between the Bulgarians and the Greeks, after having lost the territory whence alone they could derive supplies for their armies necessary to watch the Greeks and Bulgarians respectively except at a ruinous cost, that it was hopeless to argue that the present surrender would establish such cordial relations with Greece as would enable them to dispense with an army, as the temptation to the north of Olympus in the direction of Salonica would be irresistible to the Greeks, especially as a Greek-speaking population would in that direction still remain unannexed, and that meanwhile, on the side of Epirus the Albanians would certainly resist, either with or without Government support. He would assume that the Government did not support them. They would then wear themselves out against the Greeks in a long and bloody struggle; they might fight a year or two years; they might have to

succumb to the Greeks, especially if the latter were supported by the Powers, but what then? Incensed at being deserted by the Porte, who had on this assumption refused to assist the Albanians, the whole of Albania would throw off the Turkish yoke, and what would be left to Turkey between the Albanians, the Greeks, and the Slavs? It was the end of Turkey in Europe which was decreed by the Berlin Conference.

His Excellency proceeded to dwell on the certainty of terrible scenes in Epirus. "In the name of humanity, let the Powers reflect on what would happen, and on the massacre which would take place." I said, "Do you mean a battle?" He replied, "Not one battle, but continuous fighting, and that of the worst sort, for a very long time, followed by a guerilla warfare with all its horrors." I did not fail to point out what a responsibility the Turkish Government would incur on his own showing by encouraging resistance which would end thus, to which Abédine Pasha replied the Porte would be absolutely helpless in the matter. On the side of Thessaly they could act as a regularly constituted Government; if there was resistance there it would be conducted under the conditions of regular warfare with respect to prisoners and the usages of war, but in Albania the Porte itself had certainly not the authority to prevent the populations from taking the matter into their own hands. He renewed his entreaties that on the Epirus side the Powers should pause as to enforcing the cession, even if it should be necessary for Turkey to make further sacrifices in Thessaly. I inquired whether I was to understand him to mean that they would yield more to the north of the line on the Ægean in the direction of Salonica.

His Excellency appeared unwilling to commit himself much further, but I certainly gathered he would surrender further Greek-speaking places on the Ægean side if, by such an arrangement, a portion of the territory to be surrendered in Epirus could be saved.

I have been anxious, while keeping your Lordship fully informed of the representations made to me and my colleagues here by the Turkish Government, and by others with whom I come in contact, not to trouble your Lordship with the constant rumours of an alarmist nature which are afloat, the despatch of munitions of war, the preparations for resistance, the organization of the Albanians, and similar alleged proceedings, still I have thought it right to telegraph to your Lordship to-day to the effect that the decision of the Conference has created great consternation among the Turks, and that I can hold out no hope that it will be accepted by the Porte, that it is still uncertain whether the Government will support the Albanians in their resistance, or leave them to resist annexation unaided, but that a struggle of some sort is, in my opinion, inevitable.

Rumours are rife about warlike preparations by the Government. During the last few days eight field batteries, complete with guns, shrapnel, and other shells, together with a huge quantity of small arms and ammunition, have left for Salonica. Energetic men have been selected for commands, and the number of troops in Thessaly and Epirus have, it is said, been largely increased. The Albanians, it is rumoured, have promised a fighting force of 65,000 men, of course not an organized army, but men capable of using a rifle. Still, as I suggest in my telegram of to-day, their proceedings may be intended as a demonstration only.

When I say that I can hold out no hope that the decision of the Powers will be accepted by the Porte, I do not mean that the Porte will necessarily resist. It may simply state its inability to stand against Europe, but it will protest against the decision and say it yields to force alone.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

P.S.—I inclose two letters of Hobart Pasha on the Greek frontier question, and a memorandum by Mr. Block, Assistant Interpreter, on the views expressed by the Turkish press.

G. J. G.

Inclosure 1 in No. 120.

Extract from the "Semaphore" of June 26, 1880.

Le 25 Juin, 1880.

M. le Rédacteur,

C'EST avec le plus grand regret que je remarque la joie avec laquelle vous accueillez un bruit qui circule sur les intentions de la Conférence de Berlin à propos de la question Grecque. S'il est vrai, selon le bruit que vous rapportez, que Janina, Larissa et Preveza doivent être donnés à la Grèce; tout ce que je puis dire c'est que

jamais chose plus inique n'a été vue depuis le jour où la civilisation a commencé à poindre en Europe. Je puis à peine croire qu'une Conférence chargée d'un rôle médiateur puisse proposer un vol aussi effronté du territoire d'une Puissance amie. Il faut espérer que vos informations sont inexactes, autrement la Turquie pourra bien dire: Délivrez-moi de mes soi-disants amis! La Russie, enivrée de gloire et de conquête campée aux portes mêmes de Constantinople, ne réclamait pas, comme prix d'une grande guerre où la Turquie avait été vaincue, une cession aussi considérable de territoire ni l'abandonnement d'un aussi grand nombre de fidèles Musulmans à la merci des Chrétiens que le ferait aujourd'hui la Conférence, d'après vos renseignements. Je ne parle pas de la Bulgarie, car si le Traité de San Stéphano eût été exécuté, en revanche l'Autriche n'aurait jamais pris la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine. Si les Puissances entendent démembrer complétement la Turquie d'Europe qu'elles le disent franchement. Ce serait plus honnête que de le faire sournoisement en prétextant d'un Article de Traité le plus vague qui ait jamais été signé. Comme les hommes d'Etat Russes se régaleront des fruits de toute cette philanthropie Européenne. Quelles tristes réflexions la Turquie va nous faire:—"Que n'ai-je jamais écouté les conseils de l'Angleterre, que n'ai-je jamais arrêté mes troupes sur sa demande lorsque la Serbie tout entière était à leurs pieds, vaincue, suppliante; que n'ai-je écrasé la Grèce quand il ne fallait seulement donner un ordre pour briser ses ambitions; que n'ai-je accepté la main que la Russie me tendait lorsque après m'avoir vaincue dans une lutte honorable elle m'offrait de tout oublier et d'être mon amie à l'avenir." Au lieu de cela la Turquie a écouté les bonnes paroles de l'Angleterre, les promesses douteuses de l'Autriche qui finit par lui prendre un quart de ses territoires en Europe, les conseils de la France, "Soyez patiente, soyez pitiente, et on vous défendra contre votre ennemie la Russie;" les dangereuses flatteries de l'Italie qui convoitait tout le temps un morceau de l'Albanie, et qu'en est-il advenu? Bien mieux eût il valu se mettre d'accord avec la Russie que d'en arriver où nous en sommes aujourd'hui, Les Turcs disent au peu d'amis qui leur restent, les yeux pleins de larmes:—"Vendus, vendus, trois fois vendus. Au moins l'Angleterre eût-elle dû nous rester; l'Angleterre qui nous dit de faire des réformes, lorsqu'elle voit que si l'on cherche à exécuter les recommandations de la Conférence de Berlin, la guerre est imminente en Albanie, en Epire, et en Thessalie; l'Angleterre qui nous conseille de payer nos dettes tandis qu'elle consent au vol en masse de nos territoires. Il faut donner quelque chose à la Grèce? Oui, mais pas la moitié de la Turquie d'Europe et les clefs de l'autre moitié." On nous a dit, lorsque les nouveaux Ambassadeurs auprès de la Porte ont été nommés, qu'ils étaient surtout choisis pour agir avec fermeté, et certainement on n'eût pu mieux choisir, mais si la fermeté consiste à insister auprès de la Turquie pour qu'elle abandonne province sur province, tout ce que je puis dire c'est que ce n'est pas là un bon moyen de recommander des réformes ni de disposer le Sultan et les Ministres de Sa Majesté à les mettre en exécution.

Tout ce que j'ai écrit se base naturellement sur les informations que vous avez données. Mais j'espère fermement que cette fois vous avez été mal renseigné.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) HOBART.

Inclosure 2 in No. 120.

Extract from the "Semaphore" of June 28, 880.

LETTRE AU RÉDACTEUR.—Son Excellence Hobart Pacha nous adresse la réponse suivante:—

"M. le Rédacteur, "*Le 27 Juin*, 1880.

"Tout en ne voulant rien objecter à votre critique de la lettre que je vous ai adressée au sujet des prétendues décisions du Traité de Berlin, car je ne dispute à personne le droit d'exprimer librement son opinion, je dois faire remarquer que vous avez mal interprété, sinon mes paroles, du moins mes pensées sur l'un des deux points essentiels de ma lettre. Je n'ai jamais voulu dire que je regardais les réformes comme une faveur à accorder par la Turquie à l'Europe. Personne dans son humble capacité n'a insisté plus franchement, plus souvent, plus constamment que moi sur la nécessité de réformes radicales en Turquie, et cela dans l'intérêt de l'Empire Ottoman et non pour plaire à l'Europe. Le point saillant de mon argument était qu'en ce moment critique (à part la question de justice), il est imprudent de faire naître dans le pays

l'idée que le point principal ou du moins le premier point à discuter au début d'une action diplomatique était l'examen à un point de vue excessivement exagéré de la clause du Traité de Berlin qui recommande à la Turquie une rectification de sa frontière Grecque, un pareil procédé des Puissances amenant, je le crois, naturellement, les Turcs à soupçonner que le démembrement de l'Empire Ottoman est le véritable objet en vue et alors, pensent-ils, quel est l'objet des réformes?

"En parlant de la Russie je voulais simplement faire comprendre que les Turcs doivent sentir que s'ils sont forcés à faire à la Grèce la cession qu'indiquent vos informations, il eût mieux valu pour eux, que l'Europe les laissât libres d'accepter le Traité de San Stéphano, par lequel ils eussent sauvé la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine aussi bien que l'Epire et la Thessalie.

"J'ai lu les instructions de Mr. Goschen dans les journaux, mais je ne vois pas qu'il y soit indiqué que la Conférence de Berlin soutiendrait les revendications exorbitantes de la Grèce.

"J'ai, &c.
(Signé) "HOBART."

Inclosure 3 in No. 120.

Memorandum.

THE Turkish press of to-day has republished Hobart Pasha's letter concerning the decision of the Berlin Conference with regard to the Greek frontier; the Turkish press, as was to be expected, regards very favourably Hobart Pasha's letter, entirely agreeing with its contents. The letter is likely to meet with great approbation from the Turks, and yesterday even I met with Turks who expressed satisfaction, and acknowledged that the opinions expressed by Hobart Pasha were identically with their own opinions. The effect produced by the letter will by no means be a good one, the Turks being the first to turn to account the arguments given by an Englishman holding a high position in the Turkish service.

(Signed) ADAM BLOCK.

June 27, 1880

No. 121.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 95.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June* 29, 1880.

I TOOK the opportunity of speaking to Abédine Pasha yesterday on the subject of the completion of railway communication between Turkey and Servia, and urged upon him the desirability of coming to an agreement with the Principalities upon the question without unnecessary delay. His Excellency expressed himself warmly in favour of the railway in question, and hoped that it would be carried out. He, however, added that he did not at present see how the financial difficulties could be overcome. His Excellency did not seem thoroughly acquainted with what was passing on the question, but promised such co-operation as he could.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 122.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 96.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June* 29, 1880.

A DECREE has been issued by the Porte suspending the "Stamboul" newspaper for fifteen days for having reproduced news from foreign newspapers. The measure appears to be a harsh one, more especially as the same information as that for which the "Stamboul" is suspended has been published in a more extended form by the semi-official journal "Turquie," and other local papers, without their incurring any rebuke. Even supposing the publication of the information in question to have been an offence

against the Press Laws, there appears to be no special reason why the "Stamboul" should have been singled out for punishment. It is my intention to remonstrate at the Porte against this arbitrary proceeding.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 123.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 97. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June* 29, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of the answer received from the Sublime Porte to that portion of the identic note presented to them which relates to the Montenegrin frontier. I telegraphed its substance to your Lordship.

Out of deference to the Powers the Porte offers again to carry out the measures laid down in the April Memorandum, but with the condition that the necessary time may be given to the Turkish authorities. The Porte expresses its conviction that the Powers will be anxious to prevent the consequences which would ensue on the employment of force against the Albanians, who, in their ignorance of the exigencies of politics, try to resist the cession of their country.

The Porte further dwells on the consequences of a conflict against the armed masses who, it alleges, are under the spell of a great enthusiasm, while it declares its conviction that with time it could reoccupy the evacuated positions.

At the same time, the Porte declares that it is ready to consider any other solution which may be suggested by the Powers which would avoid the present complications and the shedding of blood.

As I have previously informed your Lordship, the Representatives of the Signatory Powers were aware of the probable tenour of the Turkish answer before it was received, and it had already been settled that the new proposal with regard to the cession in the district of Dulcigno, which would be substituted for the April Memorandum, should be sent as a counter-reply to the Porte.

We accordingly met at once to settle the answer, the draft of which had previously been prepared by the French Ambassador and myself, but the Russian Ambassador had stated with reference to that draft that, as he had heard from his Government that the Prince of Montenegro still made certain reservations as to the frontier-line, he could not sign any note in which a distinct line of frontier was set out. He had, however, telegraphed for instructions.

When we met again M. de Novikoff had received no reply to his telegram, and alleged that his difficulty as to signing was increased by this circumstance. He had a further objection. His Excellency pressed his colleagues individually as to whether they believed that there was much chance, if any, of the Porte's acceding to the proposal; and in view of the feeling which several expressed that the chances were not great, he suggested whether it was wise to make the proposal without further consultation with our respective Governments. In reply, I remonstrated very strongly against any further delay. We had put off submitting the proposal on the understanding that it was to be made as a reply to the expected note from the Porte, and now that the reply had been received and an invitation addressed to us to offer a new solution, we could not, in the face of our instructions, delay any further. I pointed out where the responsibility would lie if, in consequence of any further delay, intrigues should be pursued in the neighbourhood of Dulcigno which would render the solution impracticable. The Austrian Minister supported me thoroughly, and the feeling was general that the proposal ought at once to be made. In the end the Russian Ambassador consented to yield if the proposal were made in general terms, not indicating the precise frontier, so that the modification demanded by the Prince of Montenegro, of which his instructions spoke, might be considered. The offer was made that phrases should be introduced reserving any minor points, but M. de Novikoff would not consent to sign if the frontier were indicated at all. It was consequently indispensable, in order to secure unanimous action immediately, to indicate simply the direction of Dulcigno and the sea as that in which a cession should be made. Your Lordship will observe, from the copy of the identic note eventually agreed on—which I have the honour to inclose—how general were the terms in which the description was couched, but, though I regret the necessity for this vagueness, I do not think it will have any serious result, as the Turkish Government will know enough to be able to reply whether they accept the new proposal in principle.

Your Lordship will observe that every care has been taken in the phraseology of the note to keep the Turks bound to the immediate execution of the April Memorandum, if they do not accede to the new proposal; also that a protest is entered against any delay.

It remains to be seen what steps the Sublime Porte will take in consequence of the last note.

I have no hope that they will consider the Dulcigno plan as a more satisfactory alternative than the arrangement of Count Corti. In most ways it is more distasteful to them. They would have to surrender Mussulman Albanians instead of Roman Catholics. They would lose what they call the port of Albania; and they consider that strategically Scutari would be threatened. In all these respects they consider the cession of the Hoti and Clementi clans less objectionable. The one advantage is that which has been pointed out by Mr. Green, that of practicability, and I urged Abédine Pasha yesterday as strongly as I could not to disregard the wishes of Europe. How small was the sacrifice demanded of them compared with the advantage of at once settling one of the questions on which Europe was calling them to account. I gained the impression, from an expression which Abédine Pasha let fall, but still more from what he had said the day previously to the First Dragoman, that there was some inclination to attempt to bargain with respect to the Montenegrin frontier in connection with the settlement of the Turco-Greek frontier. Would an immediate settlement of the Albanian difficulty on the Lake of Scutari be taken favourably into consideration in dealing with the Albanian grievances involved in the cession of Janina or other territory claimed by the Albanians? I did not invite any further explanations, because it appeared to me that such a course was entirely impossible, looking to the proceedings at Berlin, and would only involve fresh negotiations and delay. I therefore cut the matter short. If your Lordship should be of a different opinion, it would probably be easy to secure fresh overtures.

Abédine Pasha then explained to me that the Porte really meant to execute the April Memorandum. They were going to send influential men to persuade the Albanians that resistance was hopeless, and they were considering how far they could offer them Government lands for the purpose of feeding their flocks somewhat further off. They would not be idle, but they could not attempt force now. Their soldiers would desert if they did, but the recalcitrants would be tired out.

I did not profess to be convinced of the sincerity of the efforts intended to be made, but repeated that the Powers would certainly not accord delay.

I then referred his Excellency to the passage in the identic note which we had just handed him, which had reference to the satisfaction of Albanian aspirations with regard to their administration and government. He made a somewhat curious reply. He said:—"All that we can offer the North Albanians as a boon in this respect is the appointment of Albanian functionaries. Otherwise they practically have their own way already. They pay no more taxes than they choose. We have little authority over them. If we send them a Governor-General of whom they disapprove they drive him away. All they want is to have Albanians for Governors, Lieutenant-Governors, Kaimakams, and so forth. Would it be wise to satisfy them? What would be thought of me, who am myself an Albanian, if I supported this demand?" He was anxious to have a friendly opinion from me on the subject.

I replied that concessions in this respect were clearly within the spirit of the course recommended by the Powers, namely, the satisfaction of their legitimate aspirations; but use should be made of such a concession for the purpose of conciliating the Albanians to the necessary transfer of territory. The English Government were not hostile to the Albanians; on the contrary, his Excellency must see the interest felt in their political position by the initiative taken to suggest more self-government; but the Berlin Treaty must be carried out, though it might wound their susceptibilities in the cession of a small corner of their territory. Abédine Pasha admitted that the value of the strip to be ceded under the Corti arrangement was really infinitesimal.

Since my interview with Abédine Pasha, the Chargé d'Affaires of Montenegro called upon me, and informed me that his Excellency had stated to him that the Sublime Porte would decline the Dulcigno suggestion, and had offered in lieu a pecuniary indemnity to Montenegro.

I have telegraphed to your Lordship to that effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE. J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 123.

Abédine Pasha to Mr. Goschen.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 24 Juin*, 1880.

J'AI l'honneur de répondre à la partie de la note de votre Excellence en date du 11 Juin qui se rapporte aux affaires du Monténégro.

Dans sa note du 28 Avril dernier mon prédécesseur a donné à votre Excellence des explications sur les faits qui se rattachent à cette question.

Ces explications ont eu pour but et doivent avoir eu pour effet de démontrer aux Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin que si les troupes Monténégrines n'ont point pris possession des positions abandonnées par les troupes Ottomanes ce fait ne saurait être imputé à nos autorités.

En effet, si le Commandant de Podgoritza avait élevé en recevant l'avis, une objection sur l'insuffisance du délai qui lui était laissé pour se rendre sur les lieux avec ses troupes, les autorités Ottomanes auraient pu retarder la retraite de nos troupes et rétablir facilement le délai de vingt-quatre heures.

Le Gouvernement Impérial, tout en se réservant le droit de se considérer comme dégagé de toute obligation, croit néanmoins devoir déférer au désir exprimé par les Puissances et n'hésite point à leur offrir d'exécuter de nouveau les mesures arrêtées dans le mémorandum, sous la condition que le temps nécessaire sera accordé aux autorités Ottomanes.

Nous sommes convaincus que les Puissances tiennent également à cœur d'éviter les suites fâcheuses qu'entraînerait l'emploi de moyens violents contre les Albanais qui, dans leur ignorance des douloureuses exigences de la politique, essaient de s'opposer à la cession de leur pays. Outre le désir légitime d'éviter une effusion de sang, la Sublime Porte se préoccupe à bon droit des conséquences d'une lutte à entreprendre contre ces masses armées qui sont encore sous l'empire d'une grande exaltation, conséquences qui se traduiraient par la perturbation de l'ordre et de la tranquillité publique, tandis qu'elle est persuadée qu'elle arrivera avec l'aide du temps à faire réoccuper par ses troupes les positions évacuées afin de se conformer aux termes du mémorandum.

Pendant le même délai le Gouvernement Impérial prendra des mesures efficaces pour atteindre ce but sans effusion de sang; et il va sans dire que pour faciliter l'accomplissement de cette tâche, le délai dont il s'agit ne devra pas être rapproché.

Au surplus, la Sublime Porte, si les Puissances le jugeaient nécessaire, ne refuserai pas de payer au Gouvernement Monténégrin les impôts perçus par les autorités Impériales sur le territoire qu'il aurait pu provisoirement posséder.

La Sublime Porte est en même temps prête à prendre en considération tout autre mode de solution qui lui serait suggéré par les Puissances, et qui réunirait les conditions voulues pour amener le résultat désiré en écartant les complications sans que du sang soit versé et en prévenant le désordre qui résulterait d'une violente résistance.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) ABÉDINE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 123.

Identic Note addressed to the Porte.

M. le Ministre, *Thérapia, le 26 Juin*, 1880.

JE m'empresse de vous accuser réception de la note par laquelle votre Excellence a répondu à la seconde des trois questions qui faisaient l'objet de la communication que j'ai eu l'honneur de lui adresser le 11 de ce mois; je l'ai immédiatement porté à la connaissance de mon Gouvernement.

Je ne saurais dissimuler à votre Excellence que les conditions de temps auxquelles la Sublime Porte subordonne l'exécution de l'Arrangement du 18 Avril sont inconciliables avec l'invitation que lui ont adressée les Puissances de donner à ce même Arrangement une exécution immédiate.

Toutefois, en me référant au passage de la note de votre Excellence où le Gouvernement Ottoman se déclare prêt à prendre en considération tels autres modes de solution qui lui seraient suggérés par les Puissances, et qui réuniraient les conditions voulues pour amener le résultat désiré, je suis autorisé par le Gouvernement de

Sa Majesté Britannique à indiquer comme l'équivalent des cessions stipulées par l'Acte du 18 Avril, une rectification de frontière à l'est et à l'ouest du Lac de Scutari, rectification qui, du côté de la mer, étendrait le littoral appartenant aujourd'hui au Monténégro jusqu'à l'embouchure de la Boiana y compris Dulcigno.

Le littoral cédé serait soumis aux stipulations de l'Article XXIX du Traité de Berlin; le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique se réserve d'ailleurs, dès que la Porte aura accepté en principe, de préciser les divers points de la nouvelle ligne de démarcation ainsi que les conditions de détail destinées à compléter cet Arrangement. La combinaison que je suis autorisé à suggérer à votre Excellence a incontestablement l'avantage de ne laisser subsister aucun doute quant aux facilités d'exécution.

Dans le but, au surplus, d'accroître les chances favorables que présente à ce point de vue l'échange de territoire projeté la Sublime Porte aurait intérêt à accorder aux Albanais de la Province de Scutari des arrangements administratifs qui, tout en maintenant les liens qui rattachent ces populations à l'Empire Ottoman, donneraient une satisfaction suffisante à leurs légitimes aspirations.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique a la ferme conviction que la Sublime Porte reconnaissant les avantages pratiques de l'arrangement qui lui est suggéré, n'hésitera pas à accepter une solution qui lui permet tout à la fois de tenir ses engagements envers les Puissances, et d'éviter, à l'égard des populations Albanaises, les mesures de rigueurs dont elle affirme l'impossibilité.

Le Gouvernement Ottoman ne cessant pas d'ailleurs d'être lié par ses premiers engagements jusqu'à l'entière exécution de la nouvelle combinaison, je n'ai pas besoin de faire observer à votre Excellence qu'en refusant de souscrire à ce dernier arrangement, la Porte se retrouverait, par le fait même, en présence des obligations qui résultent pour elles de la Convention du 18 Avril, et par suite, de la nécessité d'une exécution immédiate démontrée par la note que j'ai eu l'honneur d'adresser à votre Excellence sous la date du 11 de ce mois.

Je prie votre Excellence, eu égard à l'urgence notoire d'une solution, de vouloir bien répondre dans un bref délai à la présente communication, et je profite, &c.

(Signé) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 124.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 8.*)

(No. 99.)

Therapia, July 2, 1880.

My Lord,

THE question which at the present moment is uppermost in all circles at Constantinople is, in what manner will the decision of the Berlin Conference with respect to the Greek frontier be received and dealt with by the Porte? It is now assumed on all hands that the line of frontier agreed to by the Great Powers will not be recommended only, but that, whatever form may be chosen, the decision of Europe will practically be compulsory.

Your Lordship will have observed, from the Turkish reply to the identic note, that the Sublime Porte have protested energetically against the course pursued at Berlin. They invoke the provisions of the Treaty, they deny the right of the Signatory Powers to go beyond mediation, but they are convinced that something far beyond mediation is meant by the action taken.

I observe, from the various telegrams which your Lordship has transmitted to me, describing the interchange of opinions between the various Powers, that it has been a matter of discussion whether, in communicating the decision arrived at in Berlin to the Sublime Porte, the phrase used should be "asked," "demanded," or "invited."

I further observe that at one time it was proposed that the decision of the Conference should be drawn up as a report of opinion to which the Conference considers Turkey and Greece should agree, while the hope existed that "the opinion of Europe would be considered by both Powers as conclusive." It would doubtless be an intense relief at this moment to the Turkish Government, and be claimed by them as a great moral victory, if the Powers should decide to present their verdict to Turkey and Greece in any form which would bear the character of mediation, leaving them free to accept or reject, and not that of a final and irresistible arbitration. I shall presently venture to place before your Lordship the results which I foresee from such a course, but I would first wish to state my conviction in the strongest terms, that if this mode of procedure is adopted, it must be chosen with the distinct foreknowledge that the line of frontier marked out by the Conference will not be accepted by the Porte. It is most doubtful whether at this moment the will of Europe would be executed by the Turks; the wish of Europe, however unanimously expressed, will certainly be set aside.

My previous despatches will have explained to your Lordship that the Turks have the deepest feeling that the cession of territory now contemplated passes the limits of justice and impartiality. Though the consequences of the late disastrous wars are still being felt with intensity in every corner of this realm, and have reduced Government, and, in many quarters, almost the fabric of society to chaos, though anarchy and misery still prevail, and the situation is such that the Turks themselves despair of their country, the actual sense of defeat has been diminished by the two years which have intervened; and the cession of rich plains, of valued strategic positions, and, above all, of towns and villages where Mussulmans and Albanians are numerous, is no longer looked upon simply as the outcome of a military defeat, but as an act of unjust partiality exacted by Europe at their expense. I am not less aware than Her Majesty's Government how unreasonable such a view must be declared to be. But it is important that it should be known to exist, and not as a simple pretext on the part of the Turkish Government, but as a real and substantial feeling. The bearing of the prevalence of such a view on the reception of the decision arrived at at Berlin is obvious. The wish of Europe will in this matter carry no moral weight to the Turkish mind. It will have no influence whatever in its character of a verdict delivered by an unbiassed Tribunal as between two contending parties. It would only be accepted, if accepted at all, from feelings of fear, and the only chance of the labours of the Conference resulting in a peaceful solution of the frontier question would lie in the conviction on the part of the Turks, that their acceptance is absolutely compulsory.

It is, however, not clear at all that they would peacefully yield even to an expression of the will of Europe. It is possible that the Government, and still more the Sultan himself, may argue that the exhibition of force on the part of foreign Powers will be the only consideration which will justify them to their own people in yielding the territory assigned to Greece.

The apprehension of the vengeance of the Albanians, if they consider themselves sacrificed, is a weighty influence in the determination of the respective dangers of submission or resistance, and one likely to affect the Sultan himself very intensely.

All that I see and hear forces the conclusion upon me (a conclusion, I may add, shared in by almost all my colleagues), that the Powers must make up their minds to the certainty that the decision of the Conference will either remain a dead letter, a result which, on all hands, will be admitted to be absolutely inadmissible, or that a struggle of greater or less dimensions will ensue.

I have said that it would be absolutely inadmissible for the decision of the Conference to remain a dead letter. I need, I feel confident, not enlarge upon this subject. It seems to me self-evident. I will, therefore, confine myself to pointing out that it is the fanatical party at the Palace and the Porte who would claim the victory, if the wish of Europe is set aside. It is they who are persuading the Sultan that, if he stands firm, he has nothing to fear; they who are now, in the midst of an utter financial collapse, spending all the revenue which comes in on military preparations; they who are managing to keep the Sultan surrounded by the worst advisers, and who have managed, in the most critical moment of all, to have the moderate men among the Sultan's secretaries dismissed. During the last six months the wishes, the claims, and the demands of all the Great Powers, without exception, have been defied to an extent never reached before at Constantinople. Sir Henry Layard's graphic despatches afford ample proof of this statement. But the Representatives of all the Powers have the same story to tell. European influence would receive its death-blow if, after what has been said, written, and done with regard to the Berlin Conference, the Greek frontier question should be left in much the same state as before.

I do not fail to bear in mind that some of the Powers have considered from the first that a necessary, but sufficient, duty would have been performed if the frontier line should have been laid down on paper and put on record as the opinion of Europe. Even if it had been wise to accept this policy six weeks ago, I think it is far less possible and far more dangerous now.

The further question, therefore, arises: If Turkey is to be told unmistakably that the new frontier line must be accepted, what will be the result?

Two alternatives are possible: either the Porte will allow the Albanians to resist the Greeks when the latter attempt to occupy the territory assigned to them, without themselves declaring war upon Greece; or the Porte may itself defend the provinces which are to be ceded.

Till lately, the Turks have asserted very loudly that they could not yield to the decision of Berlin, and that they could not hand over an unwilling Mussulman population; but their conversation has rather given the impression that they themselves would be quiescent, and that they would not go to the length of taking the field, especially if sufficient menaces were employed by the Powers as to justify the Porte in asserting that they were practically coerced. But latterly many indications point in the direction that the Turks have been inclining to a policy of absolute resistance. These indications received official confirmation yesterday in a conversation between Abédine Pasha and the French Ambassador, of which I communicated the substance to your Lordship by telegram. M. Tissot had received instructions to hold very decided language both to the Sultan and to Abédine Pasha. He was to tell them that they must bow to the will of Europe, giving them to understand that, if they refused, some of the European Powers might have recourse to active measures. Abédine Pasha, in the course of the conversation, spoke of the dismemberment of Turkey as the result of the Berlin Award. M. Tissot adopted the word from him, and gave him to understand that dismemberment would in all probability be the consequence of resistance.

Abédine Pasha was greatly moved ("très-ému") on hearing this language. He had not expected it, nor did the Sultan expect it. He admitted to the French Ambassador that when he last saw the Sultan, the view had been that Turkey would go to the length of declaring war on Greece if the latter country attempted to occupy the territory ceded in Epirus; but it was clear to M. Tissot that this decision had been taken under the belief that the Powers would simply look on themselves. Abédine Pasha, however, still continued to declare that the Porte could not abandon the Albanians. He went over precisely the same ground with M. Tissot, over which he had travelled with me, as described in my despatch of the 29th instant, and finally said Turkey would do better to perish with honour than simply to waste away.

It is possible that before this despatch reaches your Lordship the situation may have changed again. At the present moment I feel I have no option but to inform your Lordship of the apparent gravity of the existing state of things.

I need not point out to your Lordship the probable results of the Turks taking the field. Preparations are clearly being made in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia for this contingency. Through a source most friendly to the Bulgarians, I have learnt that there is undoubtedly much excitement, and that it is difficult for the more moderate men to restrain the extreme party. The Porte must clearly expect that if they become involved in a struggle with Greece, the Province of Roumelia will at once be united to Bulgaria. M. Tissot, indeed, pointed this out to Abédine Pasha, who replied, that probably it would be so, but that Eastern Roumelia was almost lost to them already.

The question arises, would any of the Great Powers object to and oppose this union? Would the concert of Europe be maintained? If a conflict arises in the Balkan Peninsula, as (from general appearances) may be expected, will it be possible to localize the struggle which will arise between the contending nationalities?

I have ventured shortly to touch upon the possible alternative that the Turks will themselves declare war upon Greece. The other, and possibly the more probable, alternative is, that the Turks will remain ostensibly uncommitted, but will allow, and even encourage, the Albanians to resist. It will then be a question whether the Greeks will be able to deal with the Albanians alone, a point on which opinions are much divided; and, further, how far the Powers may be disposed to extend assistance to Greece. I gather, from all I learn from the Greek Minister here and others, that the Greeks distinctly count upon their being allowed the command of the sea. They assume as certain that the Signatory Powers will not allow the Turks to employ their navy in resistance to the advance of Greece. The Turkish authorities, on their part, will, after the language of M. Tissot, believe that the Powers will certainly go to this length. Without such action by the Powers Greece would have a perilous task, and I presume, that from the eagerness which her Government has displayed to obtain Janina, notwithstanding the threatened opposition of the Albanians and the difficulty of occupying it, that they believe they have on their side the moral obligation of Europe to help them to the satisfaction of what has been pronounced to be their legitimate claim.

Some excitement prevails as to the effect of the commencement of a conflict between the Albanians and the Greeks on the more or less fanatical population of Stamboul, and on the Mussulman population generally. This feeling will require to be carefully watched, though it is easy to exaggerate it.

As for the Albanians themselves, Abédine Pasha informed M. Tissot yesterday that they were now completely out of hand. A Proclamation had been sent by telegraph to the Albanians to desist from further opposition to the Corti arrangement, to which the

Sultan had himself added the words, "in the name of God and the Prophet;" but no notice had been taken of the message, and no reply received.

Further rumours of military preparations similar to those communicated to your Lordship in my despatch of the the 29th instant have reached other Embassies, and some activity has been shown with regard to the forts in the Dardanelles; but no steps have, as far as I can learn, been taken thus far which call for serious attention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 125.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 350. Confidential.)
Vienna, June 28, 1880.

My Lord,

IN Lord Odo Russell's despatch No. 216, Most Confidential, to which your Lordship calls my attention in the confidential print received yesterday morning, Her Majesty's Ambassador reported the arrival of Prince Orloff at Berlin with the object of re-establishing the friendly relations which the Austro-German alliance had temporarily disturbed, and he stated that Prince Bismarck appeared far better disposed towards Russia than he was last autumn.

I have been unable to detect the trace of a corresponding change or modification of feeling here, and I am even disposed to say that, though the relations between the two countries may be less outwardly cold than they were for some time after the conclusion of the Austro-German alliance, the distrust of the Imperial Cabinet of the ultimate views of Russia, and the disbelief in her wish honestly to co-operate in the tranquilization of the East, are intensified rather than diminished.

The resistance opposed by Russia to the unanimous decision of the other Powers upon the Dobrudscha Frontier question—the present made by the Czar to Prince Alexander of the river monitors, and their consequent maintenance in the Danube in the face of the plain provisions of the Treaty—and the omission to raze the fortresses, the demolition of which was to have been completed within a year from the signature of the Treaty, were all taken as evidence that in the questions most nearly affecting the interests of Austria, Russia was endeavouring to procure the evasion of the Berlin engagements.

The conduct of Russia and of Turkey during the last two years has been in many respects similar. The Treaty of Berlin contained provisions distasteful to both of them, and each has continued to endeavour to attenuate some of their effects, but those which Russia would gladly see relaxed touch direct Austrian interests far more closely than the non-execution of the engagements taken by Turkey, and the recent symptoms of a Pan-Bulgare movement, which the Austrian Cabinet attributes chiefly to the instigation of the Russian Agents, who exercise an almost uncontrolled influence both in the Principality and in Eastern Roumelia, effectually prevents the revival of anything like cordiality or a good understanding between the two Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 126.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 352.)
Vienna, June 28, 1880.

My Lord,

I INFORMED Baron Haymerle that your Lordship would be glad to know more precisely what he considered the proper form to adopt in submitting the decision of the Conference to Turkey and Greece.

He said he could only repeat the answer that he had sent to Count Szechenzi to the question upon this point, which he and his colleagues had addressed to their respective Governments.

He had stated that he thought the Conference should draw up a final Protocol of their proposal, and should prepare the form of an identic note in which it should be communicated to the Governments of Turkey and Greece by their Representatives at Constantinople and Athens.

This note should, he thought, contain something to the following effect: "Le Gouvernement de demande à la Sublime Porte (ou la Grèce) l'acceptation de la ligne que les Puissances Médiatrices réunies en Conférence ont unanimement reconnue comme conforme à l'esprit et à la lettre du Traité de Berlin et du 13e Protocole."

There might be a question whether a better word than "demande" could not be found.

He had suggested it, because he did not think it would be advisable to employ a term implying a menace of resort to coercion, while, on the other hand, he considered that it would hardly be sufficient merely to "recommend" the decision of the Powers to Turkey and Greece, as proposed in your Lordship's telegram to Lord Odo Russell of the 23rd instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 127.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 354. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, June 29, 1880.*

UPON again asking Baron Haymerle whether he would not authorize Count Dubsky to direct the Imperial Consuls in Eastern Roumelia to communicate to Colonel Wilson any information they might possess which would help him in the inquiry he was to make in that province, his Excellency told me that he had already done so, but that it was to be clearly understood that in no report which is to be made public are the Austrian Agents to be named, or an indication given of information having been derived from them.

The extreme dread of the English Blue Books which always prevails at Vienna is on this occasion as marked as ever, but does not seem to arise from any apprehension of a divergence being found between the reports of the Austrian and British Agents, as the accounts that they have received of the treatment of the Mussulmans in Eastern Roumelia are, I am assured, quite as distressing as those that have been given by Mr. Consul-General Michell.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 128.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 355. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, June 29, 1880.*

I INQUIRED of Baron Haymerle whether he had received any intelligence respecting the enrolment of the Eastern Roumelian Gymnasts in the reserves, and the order for their weekly drill, reported in Mr. Stephen's telegram of the 25th instant.

His Excellency said that he had heard nothing of it, but he took the matter in a very serious light, exclaiming that he felt sure there was something preparing in that quarter. The late advance of nearly 1,000,000 fr. by Bulgaria to the Eastern Roumelian Government was one of many evidences which he saw of some movement being contemplated.

The Bulgarian Government had told the Austrian Agent that the advance was made for the purpose of founding an Agrarian Bank, while the Eastern Roumelian Government stated that they had asked for it to enable them to pay what they owed to the Porte, and it was now ascertained that the money was not being devoted to either of these objects.

He had every expectation that when the Bulgarians saw the addition about to be made to Greece they would attempt, if possible, to extend their own territories, and he asked whether the Powers which had so lately concluded the Treaty of Berlin could do nothing to prevent their arrangements from being set aside. The administration of Eastern Roumelia was being conducted without the slightest regard for the Treaty; the maintenance of the Gymnasts was illegal, and the district of Bourgas gave an instance of the absence of even a semblance of the impartiality which it had been the intention to secure for all classes of the inhabitants. That district contained not more than

17,000 Bulgarians, with between 50,000 and 60,000 Turks and Greeks, but of the fifty officials employed in it, in one rank or another, the whole, with the exception of eight, were Bulgarians, and an insignificant minority of the population were thus the lords over the rest.

Although I have thought it right to report this language to your Lordship, I would remark that it was more the utterance of a man giving vent to his thoughts on a subject that preoccupies him than the deliberate expression of opinions by a foreign Minister to the Representative of another Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 129.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 357.)
My Lord, *Vienna, June 30, 1880.*

BARON HAYMERLE is quite willing to adopt your Lordship's suggestion of communicating the decisions of the Conference to the Turkish and Greek Governments by collective instead of identic notes, if the other Powers concur in it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 130.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 359.)
My Lord, *Vienna, June 30, 1880.*

THE appointment of Baron Calice, at present Under-Secretary of the Imperial Foreign Office, as Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at Constantinople, is decided upon, and will be carried out as soon as the usual intimation of the willingness of the Sultan to receive him has been obtained.

Baron Calice, who was Second Austrian Plenipotentiary at the Conference of Constantinople, is thoroughly acquainted with the whole progress of events, both preceding and subsequent to that period, and has always been one of the strongest supporters of a policy based upon a close understanding between England and Austria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 131.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 361. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, June 30, 1880.*

COUNT DUBSKY does not appear to have been as explicitly instructed as I had supposed when I telegraphed to your Lordship, on the 29th ultimo, to direct the Austrian Consular Agents in Eastern Roumelia to furnish information to assist Colonel Wilson in the inquiry he is to make in that province, but Baron Haymerle says that he will send the necessary instructions as soon as he is informed that Colonel Wilson is about to proceed on his investigation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 132.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 8.)

(No. 362. Confidential.)
Vienna, June 30, 1880.

My Lord,

BARON HAYMERLE said to me to-day that if a naval demonstration on the coast of Albania or Epirus became necessary or inevitable, he trusted that Her Majesty's Government would support the interests of Austria in regard to it.

In reply to my inquiry as to what interests he alluded to, he answered that he would wish the demonstration to be confined to British and Austrian vessels, as he would be very unwilling to see either Russian or Italian ships of war taking part in it.

I said that, with every disposition to consult the wishes of the Austro-Hungarian Government upon questions relating to districts which affected them as a neighbouring Power so much more closely than other countries, I thought it would be extremely difficult for Her Majesty's Government to comply with them in the manner he now suggested. The whole policy of Her Majesty's Government in the East was based upon the maintenance of a common action among the Great Powers in the questions to be arranged, and I doubted their thinking it possible to exclude any of them from a participation in a demonstration, if it was resolved upon and they were desirous of taking part in it.

His Excellency having then asked whether England and Austria might not be made the "mandataires" of Europe upon this occasion, I said that if the other Powers were to propose it the case would of course be materially altered, but I repeated my belief that Her Majesty's Government would not be disposed to enter into any understanding for reserving a separate or isolated action to England and Austria.

I reminded Baron Haymerle that your Lordship, not having ever hinted at a naval demonstration in your correspondence with me, he must take what I had said simply as the expression of my own individual opinion.

He did not pursue the subject, which indeed I thought he had approached with some embarrassment, as if anticipating the answer I should give him, but the extreme repugnance which he showed to the notion of having Russian and Italian cruizers on the Albanian coast—for he did not mention the French—is calculated to inspire some doubt whether he would consent to an exhibition of naval force unless limited in the way he wishes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 133.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 8.)

(No. 364. Confidential.)
Vienna, July 1, 1880.

My Lord,

BARON HAYMERLE, while speaking to me of the difficulty to be expected in obtaining from the Turkish Government their consent to the abandonment of territory that is required of them, said that he had been considering whether it might not be possible to give them some assurance that would tranquillize their natural apprehensions that this might be only the commencement of further sacrifice to be demanded of them.

The matter should be looked at from the Turkish point of view as well as from that of the Powers, and the Porte might well ask whether it might not be driven step by step to its total destruction; and he thought that it might perhaps be possible to make some sort of declaration that when the Treaty of Berlin had been carried out by the concession in favour of Greece, which it had prescribed, the rest of its provisions should be maintained and adhered to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 134.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 8.)

(No. 367.)
Vienna, July 2, 1880.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship's telegram of yesterday, No. 263, reached me this morning, and was at once forwarded by me to Baron Haymerle, who did not precisely understand the object of the instructions which you wish him to send to Count Dubsky.

I have the honour to inclose the copy of a note from Baron Kállay, the substance of which I have telegraphed to your Lordship, stating that his Excellency would be glad to be informed whether your Lordship's telegram refers to the Albanian petitions, or to the movement which is reported of 3,000 Albanians against the Montenegrin positions near Meskowitch, respecting which Count Dubsky has already been instructed to call upon the Porte to send formal orders to the Government of Scutari immediately to repress the movement.

I may add that Baron Haymerle has frequently observed to me that the petitions from the Albanians, of which many have been received here, were quite undeserving of being regarded as the expression of the views of the populations, as they were known to emanate from Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 134.

Baron Kállay to Sir H. Elliot.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Le 2 *Juillet*, 1880.

LE billet de votre Excellence étant arrivé au moment où le Ministre partait pour Schönbrunn, il m'a chargé de vous dire qu'il n'a pas tout-à-fait compris sur quel sujet Lord Granville désire que nous donnions des instructions au Comte Dubsky. Les pétitions des Albanais sont, pour sûr, fabriqués à Constantinople, il y a donc pas lieu de les prendre en considération sérieuse. Quant à l'autonomie du Vilayet de Scutari, il a été entendu que nous l'appuyerons au sein de la Commission Européenne, et pour ce qui est de la nouvelle que 3,000 Albanais se seraient dirigés contre les positions Monténégrines près de Merkowitch, nous avons télégraphié au Count Dubsky d'exiger d'une manière énergique de la Porte qu'elle donnât des ordres formels au Gouvernement de Scutari pour réprimer, le plus tôt possible, ce mouvement. Veuillez donc avoir la bonté, M. l'Ambassadeur, de demander à Lord Granville si c'est à un des faits que je viens de citer qu'il a voulu faire allusion dans son télégramme que votre Excellence nous a communiqué.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) KÁLLAY.

No. 135.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 8.)

(No. 81. Confidential. Conference.)
Berlin, July 6, 1880.

My Lord,

FROM Protocol No. 5 (p. 11), copies of which were inclosed in my despatch No. 80 of to-day's date, your Lordship will observe that at the meeting of the Plenipotentiaries held on the 28th ultimo the Russian Ambassador stated that he had been instructed by his Government to suggest to the Conference the propriety of withdrawing the stipulation relating to the neutrality of the Ionian Islands which was recorded in Article II of the Treaty signed by Great Britain, Austria, France, Prussia, and Russia on the 14th November, 1863.

His Excellency quoted the words of this Article to show that, as a consequence of the neutrality, "aucune force armée, navale ou militaire, ne pourra jamais être réunie ou stationnée sur le territoire ou dans les eaux des isles," and this stipulation would, in the opinion of the Russian Government, be unfair upon Greece if on obtaining the fresh territory awarded to her by the Conference she found it necessary to assemble troops at Corfu.

On referring to the first Protocol of the Conference held in London by the Rep

sentatives of the above-mentioned Powers between January and April 1864 with reference to the cession of the Ionian Islands to Greece (State Papers, vol. liv, p. 34), your Lordship will see that, while confining the neutrality to the Islands of Corfu and Paxos alone, instead of to the seven islands as intended by the Treaty of 1863, the Powers decided "qu'il n'y a pas lieu d'insister sur la limitation des forces navales et militaires que la Grèce entretiendra dans les Iles Ioniennes, ainsi que le porte l'Article II du Traité du 14 Novembre, 1863."

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 136.

Count Károlyi to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 8.)

18, *Belgrave Square, July* 8, 1880.

My dear Granville,

BEFORE leaving for Windsor, I send you the inclosed telegram, which is sure to obtain your concurrence.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) KÁROLYI.

Inclosure in No. 136.

Baron Haymerle to Count Károlyi.

Vienna, July 7, 1880.

(Telegraphic.)

YOUR last telegram concurs with the views expressed in my despatch of the 6th.*

We agree that the Porte should be again invited to carry out the Dulcigno proposition, and that, in case she should insist on the April Memorandum, the naval demonstration should be delayed, but the Porte be told that if she does not carry out the memorandum within three weeks from the day of the communication she will be expected to join the other Powers in putting Montenegro in possession of the Dulcigno district as a compensation for the right withheld from it during two years.

In prevision of the consent of the other Powers, Count Dubsky has, in the meanwhile, been informed accordingly.

The sending of troops and money will be efficacious if the Porte employs them loyally. Abédine Pasha ought to be reminded that, when Moukhtar Pasha was sent out with troops, it had been similarly stated that the aim was to facilitate the occupation of Gusinjé. Just the contrary had happened: the Porte ought to be enjoined that this is not to be repeated.

I do not fail to recognize the value of Lord Granville's argument, that a partial Austro-English co-operation might in the future serve as a precedent to other Powers for a single or double action; we suppose that the action of the Powers will take place under the conditions mentioned in my telegram of yesterday.

No. 137.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 8, 1 A.M.)

Constantinople, July 7, 1880, 5·30 P.M.

(No. 104.)
(Telegraphic.)

FRENCH Ambassador saw Sultan yesterday. His Majesty seemed almost in terror as to what communication would be made.

French Ambassador [group wrong]ed shortly the extremely serious consequences of resistance to will of Europe, but felt it necessary to be very gentle on account of frame of mind of His Majesty.

Sultan stated that he had ordered the enrolments of Albanians in Constantinople to be stopped, and was anxious to allay excitement, but that it was beyond his power to [group wrong; ? do] much. He appealed to France to assist in stopping the effusion of blood, for blood, he said, would flow. Still [group wrong] received impression that the tendency towards resistance was diminishing, and that great depression prevails. I also see

* The Memorandum I left yesterday.—KÁROLYI.

some symptoms of discouragement and yielding among the violent party. The excitement among the Turks seems somewhat abating.

No. 138.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 8, 11 P.M.)

Scutari, July 7, 1880, 6·30 P.M.

(No. 38.)
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING to Mr. Goschen, under No. 38:—

The origin of the Dulcigno negotiation was not spontaneously my own, nor did I venture to presume that the proposal could be satisfactory to the Porte, although I was sure it was most politic from a North Albanian point of view. I can understand that any one adverse to a permanent settlement of the frontier here should prefer Count Corti's arrangement, as I have endeavoured to explain by my despatch No. 172 of the 20th to Lord Granville.

If the Porte asserts that it opposes the Austro-British proposal on local grounds instead of unfriendliness of Islam, it may perhaps allow the North Albanians to decide for themselves which of the two cessions of territory they prefer to submit to.

One of my arguments against Count Corti's arrangement has been that it cannot be carried out without serious violence by Turkish troops against semi-independent Roman Catholic tribes, and it is probable that when this force has been used, the Porte will endeavour to place the responsibility of its employment on the Powers.

(Sent to Lord Granville.)

No. 139.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.**

Foreign Office, July 8, 1880.

(No. 225.)
(Telegraphic.)

COUNT KÁROLYI has communicated memorandum stating that Austria objects to direct invitation to Prince Nicholas to occupy Dulcigno territory, as entailing moral obligation on Powers to ensure success, and possibly war against Albanians; but will be prepared to take part in naval demonstration if April arrangement is not carried out within fixed term. In such case she would prefer that action should be collective, under reserves proposed by Her Majesty's Government, and would suggest that each Power should be limited to furnishing two vessels, and that no troops should be landed. Memorandum mentioned difficulties of navigation against entering Boyana or Lake of Scutari.

Count Károlyi agreed with me that this communication amounts to acceptance of second proposal of Her Majesty's Government recorded in my telegram to Mr. Goschen No. 217.

I concurred in remarks respecting invitation to Prince Nicholas, and said that Boyana question might be left to naval commanders, but that the more recent information which I have received confirmed the views of Baron Haymerle.

No. 140.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

Foreign Office, July 8, 1880.

(No. 220.)
(Telegraphic.)

IS there any truth in a report which has appeared in the newspapers that a female slave has taken refuge in the Embassy?

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* Also to the Earl of Dufferin (No. 305), Lord Odo Russell (No. 232), Sir A. Paget (No. 278), and Sir H. Elliot (No. 293).

No. 141.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 306.) *Foreign Office, July 8, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

YOURS No. 107.

We consider that the communication to the Porte respecting Montenegro would have more effect if made by all the Powers simultaneously, but we would propose to leave the form of the communication to be settled by Mr. Goschen with his colleagues at Constantinople.

No. 142.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 55.) *Berlin, July 8, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR Lordship's 217.

German Government have no objection to publication of identic note addressed to Porte on the 12th ultimo.

No. 143.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 56.) *Berlin, July 8, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR Lordship's No. 226.

I have communicated your Lordship's No. 14 to Mr. Corbett to Prince Hohenlohe.

His Highness says that German Government fully concur, and that he will speak in same sense to Greek Minister in Berlin and inform German Chargé d'Affaires at Athens.

No. 144.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 57.) *Berlin, July 8, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR Lordship's No. 220.

Prince Hohenlohe says that German Government agree to the course your Lordship proposes to follow with Austrian Government in regard to Montenegrin frontier, without, however, taking themselves an active part in the assistance to be given the Prince of Montenegro to take possession of the Dulcigno district.

No. 145.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8, 1 P.M.)

(No. 97.) *Vienna, July 8, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

NO objection is felt here to the publication of the document mentioned in your telegram No. 280.

No. 146.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 98.) *Vienna, July 8, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

AUSTRIAN Government agree to the course proposed in your Lordship's telegram No. 279, on the understanding already communicated to your Lordship by Count Karolyi.

No. 147.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8, 5·15 P.M.)

(No. 77. Confidential.) *Rome, July 8, 1880, 4·39 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR Lordship's No. 262.

Count Maffei writes to say that he is directed by Minister for Foreign Affairs to tell me that Italian Government agree in principle to proposal for a simultaneous communication to be made to the Porte by the Powers on the necessity of settling at once the Montenegrin question. But as regards the second part of the proposal, namely, a joint action for assisting the Prince of Montenegro to take possession of the districts assigned to him, the Italian Government require some further explanation. He adds that, from a telegram from General Menabrea, your Lordship appears to have spoken of a general joint action of all the Powers, Italy included, and not of an action limited to England and Austria alone. Italian Government consider the matter of such great importance, that before pronouncing themselves, they would like to have an exact and well-defined proposal.

No. 148.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8, 10 P.M.)

(No. 10.) *Athens, July 8, 1880, 4 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram No. 14, I have spoken to Prime Minister in sense of that telegram. His Excellency said, in answer, that he would recommend delay of publication of Proclamation to mobilize army until after Turkish answer has been received, in deference to advice of England and France, although it was contrary to his own opinion, being in a position to judge matter from a point of view other than that taken at Constantinople. He believes that Proclamation could have been made without its having the appearance of a desire to intimidate, which he considers unadvisable at this moment. Proclamation at an early date is necessary in order to keep in the ranks drilled men [group wrong] about to finish their period of service. Immediately after Turkish answer is known, advice of Western Powers will be asked in expectation that view of Greek Government will be the [group wrong]. He has telegraphed to-day to King that he would not act on telegram conveying his consent, which he has asked for; but has requested His Majesty to sign Proclamation in order that it may be ready when required.

French Chargé d'Affaires has spoken to Greek Government in sense of my communication above mentioned. German Chargé d'Affaires has received no instructions on the subject.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 149.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8, 10·30 P.M.)

(No. 11.) *Athens, July 8, 1880, 4·49 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING sent to Constantinople this afternoon:—

"With reference to your telegram of yesterday communicated to Foreign Office, authenticity of Circular undoubted. A telegram also has been sent to head of Albanian League at Janina, urging them to petition Ambassadors of Great Powers at Berlin and Constantinople against the cession to foreigners of an inch of Albanian territory, and to state that they would resist to last man. This telegram was signed by Vessel Bey and two others, [group wrong]s of Sultan."

No. 150.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8, 8 P.M.)

(No. 48.) *Paris, July 8, 1880, 6·10 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

FRENCH Government have no objection to the publication of the identic note to the Porte of the 12th June.

No. 151.

*Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.**

(No. 350.) *Foreign Office, July 8, 1880.*
My Lord,

I INCLOSE copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Sir H. Elliot,† in which copy is forwarded of a memorandum, communicated to me by Count Károlyi, which is explained by his Excellency to contain practically the acceptance by the Austro-Hungarian Government of the proposal for a concerted naval demonstration on the part of the Powers in support of the Dulcigno settlement of the Montenegrin question in the event of the Porte failing to carry out the April Arrangement within a given perio.

The substance of the despatch and memorandum has been telegraphed to your Excellency.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 152.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 309.) *Foreign Office, July 8, 1880.*
My Lord,

IN reply to the inquiry contained in your telegram No. 107 of yesterday, I have to state that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the communication to be addressed to the Porte respecting the Montenegrin frontier question would be more effectual if it were made by the Representatives of all the Powers simultaneously; but Her Majesty's Government propose to allow Mr. Goschen to settle with his colleagues the form the communication should take.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 153.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 181. Political.) *Scutari, June 29, 1880*
My Lord,

SINCE the 23rd instant the reports appearing in the newspapers arriving from abroad about the contemplated cession of Dulcigno to Montenegro, instead of the Hotti and Gruda tribes, had been causing some uneasiness, but no real action was taken here until the 25th, and after Mr. Goschen had had his private audience on the subject of the Sultan.

Izzet Pasha, the Vali, was on Friday and Saturday kept for many hours at the Telegraph Office in direct communication with the Porte, and shortly afterwards the greatest agitation became apparent in Scutari.

Letters were dispatched by the Committee to Dibra and Matia summoning immediately 3,000 volunteers to garrison Dulcigno, and orders were issued calling out the second man of every family from the mountain tribes.

On the 28th about 300 men belonging to Scutari, under the command of Jusef Agha Sokoli, the late Kaimakam of Dulcigno, but a native of this place, left for the presumed threatened locality: and yesterday the new levy of the mountain tribes, amounting to about 600 men, passed through Scutari for the same destination.

* Also to Mr. Goschen, the Earl of Dufferin, Lord Lyons, and Sir A. Paget.
† No. 102.

A deputation from Dulcigno to the Committee had come and made known the readiness of the inhabitants to take part in the defence provided a force of at least 3,000 men was sent to their assistance, and provided, also, the opposition to the Montenegrins was to be made in advance of the town, which they wished to be spared exposure for a second time to the dangers of being burnt in the course of an engagement.

In some mysterious manner an application for arms for the Dulcigniotes has been at once accorded, and although the Mahommedans endeavour to screen the Turkish authorities by asserting that the rifles have been collected from among themselves, the Roman Catholics have perceived that even now they must expect a distinction to be made between them and Mussulmans, as the Mirdite contingent at Tusi is still without the breech-loaders, promised to it when it was first summoned to the frontier.

Although there can be no doubt that the cession of Dulcigno, and, in fact, of any Albanian territory to Montenegro, is viewed with great disfavour, still, the Roman Catholic natives, who are capable of judging, understand that the loss of that town and district will not in any way affect the strength of the province, and that rather than permit the annexation of the mountain districts to the Principality they would be prepared to acquiesce in the peaceable cession of Dulcigno.

I have learnt, confidentially, from some Christian members of the Committee, that the whole of the present activity in the preparations for resistance at Dulcigno, and which it is known is merely in the guise of a protest, as the Montenegrins have made no movement indicative of an intention to advance, has its source in the inspirations derived by their Mahommedan colleagues direct from the Vali.

If the Sultan accepts the proposals which are to be submitted to His Majesty, I am of opinion that there will be no difficulty in persuading the North Albanians to submit to the sacrifice of Dulcigno in view of the advantages to be secured in the government of their province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 154.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 315. Confidential.) *Rome, July 6, 1880.*
My Lord,

THE Turkish Minister, Turkhan Bey, who is an Albanian Mussulman, informs me that he recently received a letter from a relation of his, one of the Albanian Chiefs, descriptive of the feeling existing amongst his countrymen as to the proposed cession of territory to Greece.

The letter was written when it had become known that the Conference had decided that a district comprising Janina and Metzovo were to be given to Greece, and the writer asserts that if the Powers proceed to carry out this plan, the Albanians will fight to the last man in their efforts to prevent their doing so.

Moreover, that if the Sultan should accept the decision of the Conference and attempt to execute it, the Albanians will throw off their allegiance to his throne, and receive his troops "avec les bouches de leurs fusils."

Turkhan Bey says that he considers this letter of so much importance, as showing the real feeling in Albania, it having been written by one of the principal Chiefs, and not for any official purpose, but simply as from one relation to another, and, consequently, thoroughly reliable, that he has thought it his duty to forward it to his Government.

Turkhan Bey likewise says he is perfectly convinced from his own knowledge of his country, that if the Sultan yields to the present decision of Europe he will inevitably lose the whole of Albania.

He adds further, upon the authority of his relations, that the Albanians can now muster 50,000 men well-armed, and that in the event of resistance becoming necessary the whole population may be relied upon, and that there will be no differences between Christians and Mussulmans.

I think it right to report what is said by my Turkish colleague, whose information, although perhaps somewhat coloured by patriotic feelings, seems for the most part to tally with that received from other quarters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 155.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 108.)
(Telegraphic.)
St. Petersburgh, July 9, 1880.

MY telegram No. 107.

Emperor concurs in terms of proposed communication to Porte.

No. 156.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 283.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, July 9, 1880, 3·30 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 77.

Ascertain from Italian Government whether further telegram sent to you last night, No. 278, contains sufficient explanation, or whether the Italian Government still requires more definite information, and if so, on what points.

No. 157.

*Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.**

(No. 238.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, July 9, 1880, 7 P.M.

ASK the Government to which you are accredited if they are prepared to instruct their Ambassador to concert with his colleagues for the presentation to the Porte of the collective note drafted by the Berlin Conference, as soon as the copy of the draft and the award of the Conference have reached the respective Embassies at Constantinople.

No. 158.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.†

(No. 352.)
Foreign Office, July 9, 1880.

My Lord,

IT appears to Her Majesty's Government that measures should now be taken for presenting to the Porte the collective note which has been drafted by the Berlin Conference and received the approval of the Powers.

I have therefore requested your Excellency, by telegraph, to ascertain from the Government to which you are accredited whether they are prepared to instruct their Ambassador at Constantinople to concert with his colleagues as to the best mode of carrying out this object as soon as they have received copies of the note and the Award.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 159.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.†

(No. 352.)
Foreign Office, July 9, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE to request your Excellency to inquire whether the German Government are prepared to instruct their Ambassador at Constantinople to concur with his colleagues in the necessary arrangements for the presentation to the Porte of the collective note, which was drafted at the recent Conference at Berlin, as soon as all the Ambassadors shall have received a copy of the draft and of the Award of the Conference.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* Also to Sir H. Elliot (No. 300), Lord Lyons (No. 247), Sir A. Paget (No. 266), and the Earl of Dufferin (No. 316).

† Also to Sir H. Elliot, Lord Lyons, Sir A. Paget, and the Earl of Dufferin.

No. 160.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 894.)
Foreign Office, July 9, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 546 of the 29th ultimo, and I approve the language which you held to M. de Freycinet as therein reported with reference to the proposed inquiry into the condition of the Mussulman and Greek populations in Eastern Roumelia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 161.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Thompson.

Foreign Office, July 9, 1880.

Sir,

I INCLOSE, by direction of Earl Granville, with the request that they may be brought to the notice of Mr. Secretary Childers, copies of despatches which have been received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin, testifying to the valuable assistance rendered to him by General Sir Lintorn Simmons and Major Ardagh during the sittings of the Conference lately held in that city for the rectification of the Greek frontier.*

His Lordship has had great pleasure in addressing a letter, of which a copy is also inclosed, to Sir Lintorn Simmons, conveying the thanks of Her Majesty's Government for his services on this occasion,† and I am to request that Major Ardagh may also be assured that the manner in which he has discharged his duties has been highly appreciated.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 162.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 76. Political.)
Prisrend, June 18, 1880.

My Lord,

ON the 25th ultimo a band of 150 brigands carried off 1,400 head of cattle from the village of Galesnik, in the district of Dibra. The local authorities having been apprised, sent a captain of gendarmerie, accompanied by 30 zaptiehs and some military, in pursuit. A conflict took place on a mountain named Bistra, in which, it is reported, 16 were killed and 25 wounded; but these figures may be exaggerated. It is evident, however, that, as the cattle were not recovered, the military were repulsed.

The Martini rifles, so plentifully distributed for political purposes to the Albanians, now serve for acts of brigandage, and, later on, when an attempt is made to re-establish authority, will be turned against the Government by whom they were supplied.

The band of brigands above alluded to have now levied black-mail at the rate of 2,000 piastres per village for three months.

Many of the inhabitants have abandoned their homes, and for greater security fled to the neighbouring town of Kukandele.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 163.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 77. Political.)
Prisrend, June 19, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Albanian League, of which Prisrend is the head-centre and Hadji Omer Effendi the President, have addressed a petition to the Porte requesting that they might be allowed to collect the tithes in the district of Prisrend, and remit the same to the Government.

* Lord Odo Russell, Nos. 78 and 79, Confidence, July 2, 1880.

† To General Sir L. Simmons, July 8, 1880.

A reply has been received by the local authorities stating that in this respect the Government have no need for the gratuitous services of the Albanians, as instances had occurred where they were accepted, but invariably resulted in a heavy loss to the revenue.

Their assistance, however, would not be refused in cases where payment was not forthcoming.

This answer caused no slight dissatisfaction, as those who had proffered their services felt themselves aggrieved by the want of confidence placed in their honesty. The following list of defaulters, however, fully justifies the Government, and may be of use to those taking an interest in, or affected by, the present financial condition of Turkey.

	Piastres.
Schaib Aga, since 1870, owes	523,000
Alim Effendi, " "	38,000
Hadji Younus, " "	40,000
Mustafa Krussi, since 1877, owes	9,000
Ouksin Aga, " "	4,000
The total of which is	620,000

Or about 6,200*l.*

Schaib Aga, President of the "Albanian League" for the district of Prisrend, was on several occasions put into prison for the above debt, but let off no one knows why or how! He is a man of considerable property. The remaining four, and others, though at various times threatened with arrest, have hitherto evaded imprisonment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 164.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 10.)

(No. 78. Political.) *Prisrend, June* 21, 1880.

My Lord,

THE following persons are the leading members at Prisrend of the so-called "Albanian League:"—

Hadji Omer Effendi, president for all the neighbouring districts.

Schaib Aga, president for the district of Prisrend. Has been several times in prison, and owes the Government 423,000 piastres for tithes collected but not remitted.

Hirir Effendi, secretary, owes the Government 22,000 piastres for land-taxes not remitted. He was exiled to Vidin.

Hairoulla Aga is also member of the Town Council (see my despatch No. 38).

Hajeb Aga, Mehemed Aga, Ibrahim Aga, Ouksin Aga, Omer Aga, Rassim Aga, Daoud Aga.

All said to be bad characters; assassins, thieves, and very fanatical. Rassim Aga once murdered a Christian.

They are hated, but, owing to the present reign of terror, feared by their co-religionists; and though supported by the Government, their influence with the Albanians is insignificant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 165.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 10.)

(No. 79. Political.) *Prisrend, June* 22, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram of the 21st instant, informing your Lordship that the "Albanian League" had received instructions from Constantinople to send a protest to the Conference at Berlin relative to the cession of Arta, Janina, and Prevesa to Greece, I now have the honour to inclose a translation of the telegram on that subject received by the "Albanian League" Committee at Prisrend.

The open transmission of such a message fully confirms the opinion I have all along held and expressed, that a perfect understanding exists between the Porte and what has hitherto been thrust into evidence as an "Albanian League," but which, in reality, is only composed of a set of "ruffians" with whom the majority of the Albanian population have neither connection nor sympathy. The threat, therefore, that in the event of a portion of Albania being annexed to Greece the inhabitants would be ready to sacrifice the last drop of blood in defence of their holy country may be looked upon as empty words, intended (if I might so express myself) to throw dust in the eyes of Europe; for I doubt one single person from these parts, except with the prospect of plunder, volunteering for such a purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 165.

Telegram from Constantinople received by the President of the "Albanian League" at Prisrend.

(Translation.) *Constantinople, June* 15, 1880.

THE recent interference by another Government in the affairs of our holy country having caused us much dissatisfaction, we have petitioned the Conference at Berlin to take into consideration the rights of Albania, at the same time stating that the annexation of such important places as Arta, Janina, and Prevesa to Greece would be an intolerable act of injustice. If by chance such a decision should be adopted, nothing would be left us but to sacrifice the last drop of blood in defence of our sacred rights, throwing the responsibility on those who have been the cause.

It is most important, therefore, that you should at once telegraph in that sense to the Conference at Berlin.

(Signed) AHMED FAHRI.
VIRMOS.
KOSTI.
ALEXA.
DANISH.
OMER.
SADIX.
SCHEVKY.

No. 166.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 10.)

(No. 178. Political.) *Scutari, June* 27, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed by me to Mr. Goschen, on the strength of the Turkish troops in this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 166.

Mr. Kirby Green to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Scutari, June* 27, 1880.

THE following is a detailed statement of the strength of the Turkish troops in this province, which I had the honour to summarize to your Excellency in my telegram of the 19th instant:—

	Strength.
1st, 2nd, and 3rd battalions of 3rd regiment of First Army Corps	1,350
2nd battalion of 10th regiment of First Army Corps	450
6th battalion Chasseurs, Third Army Corps	650
2nd battalion 1st regiment Nizamieh of Third Army Corps	650
3rd battalion 6th regiment of Third Army Corps	650
New Houlondieh (frontier) battalion Third Army Corps, composed of Anatolians ..	610
3rd squadron of 1st regiment of Cavalry, Third Army Corps	280
Mountain Guards	200
Fortress Artillerymen	450
Field Artillerymen	150
Total	5,440

The 3rd battalion of the 3rd regiment of the 1st Army Corps garrisons Dulcigno, whilst the rest of the described force, with the exception of two companies—one at Puka and the other at Alessio—is concentrated in Scutari.

Within the last two days 1,500 of these troops have received their discharges, on the ground of having completed their term of service, and have been allowed to leave for their homes. The majority of the men thus set at liberty belong to Middle and Lower Albania, and, necessarily, suspicion has arisen that they are intended to assist in the opposition which the so-called Albanian League is preparing to offer to whatever may be decided with reference to the Hellenic frontier.

There are here, I believe, two batteries of Krupp field artillery, and one of mountain guns.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 167.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 10.)

(Confidential.)
Corfu, July 6, 1880.

My Lord,

HAVING just heard from good authority, which Lieutenant Caillard states he will explain by post to Captain Sale, an important item of intelligence, I this day telegraphed to your Lordship as follows:—

"I am informed on good authority that a messenger from the Turkish Foreign Minister (Abédine Pasha) to the Albanians is here *en route* to say that the Sultan hopes they will be all united, as he would rather lose his throne than an inch of Albania."

Lieutenant Caillard saw the messenger himself this morning.

I am endeavouring to see the messenger myself, and should I learn anything further of importance will telegraph again to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 168.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 10.)

(No. 18. Political.)
6, Albemarle Street, London, July 9, 1880.

My Lord,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 17 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to add some further particulars concerning the Turkish troops and the strength of the Albanians in and north of Epirus.

Of Turkish regular troops there are of all arms: at Janina, 3,600 men; Arta, 2,200; Prevesa, 1,500; and in addition there are some detachments in the direction of Argyrocastro which do not probably aggregate more than 1,000 men.

All the regular troops that I saw were well armed and fairly well clothed and equipped, but long arrears of pay were due, and there was the usual difficulty in providing the soldiers' rations.

A very large proportion of the regular troops at Janina were dispersed over the country in detachments for the suppression of brigandage, but when I was at Janina arrangements were being made for replacing these detachments by local levies and police.

Of Mahommedan Albanians in Epirus south of the new frontier line there may perhaps be as many as 8,000 to 9,000 adult males all armed.

Of Christian Epirotes and Albanians in Epirus south of the new line there would be perhaps 40,000 adult males who are for the most part unarmed and unaccustomed to arms. These men are for the Greek cause.

As regards the military strength of the whole of Albania from Scutari down to Janina and Paramythia; it is generally estimated that the Albanians proper—Christian and Mahommedan—could muster 200,000 armed men, exclusive of the Christian Hellenized Albanian of the Soliote district south of Paramythia and Margariti. I can give no precise authority for this estimate but have found it to be maintained by the Albanians themselves, the Greek priests of the south, and the Roman Catholic priests of northern Albania.

Of these Albanians, that portion inhabiting the country north of the river Scombi near Durazzo are termed Gaegs; they look upon Scutari as their capital, and as far as I could ascertain do not interest themselves very greatly with what passes in South Albania.

If the Albanians north of the new frontier resist the occupation of South Epirus by the Greeks, the resistance would probably be confined to the Toscs or Albanians south of the Scombi river.

These Toses with their subdivisions of Lleaps and Tjames form the most considerable portion of the Albanian race. They are almost all Mahommedan; they are well accustomed to the use of arms and thoroughly understand and appreciate the use of modern weapons of precision of the most approved kinds.

I have but the vaguest information as to the extent to which they are armed with breechloaders, but think that almost one man in three is so armed. As to the numbers in which these men could be got together to resist the Greek occupation, this so entirely depends upon the degree of enthusiasm excited, and the action taken by the Porte, that any estimate could be but a mere conjecture.

It is worthy of remark that if the Albanians attempt to occupy the district directly to the north of the Ambracian Gulf with a view to resist the entrance of Greek troops they will find themselves in what is practically a hostile country. The maintenance and supply of any considerable body of men under such circumstances will demand a degree of organization hardly to be expected.

This I think renders it unlikely that any very great number of Albanians could be maintained in the country near Prevesa and Arta.

The town of Tepelini, east of the Bay of Valona, is usually deemed to be the key to the communications between Epirus and Albania proper. A force occupying this place would be able to command the roads leading to Epirus, and so prevent the main body of Albanians from attacking the Greeks in their new territory, but Tepelini is very inaccessible from the sea owing to the direction and height of the intervening mountain ranges.

Should collisions occur between the Albanians and the Greek army the most likely points of encounter are:—

1. Some spot between Arta and the eastern extremity of the Ambracian Gulf.
2. Pentepigadia, or Five Wells, a point on the road between Arta and Janina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE.

No. 169.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 10.)

(No. 580.)
Paris, July 8, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegraphic instructions respecting a communication to be made to the Porte respecting the Montenegrin Frontier question.

This evening I sounded M. de Freycinet on the subject. I said that your Lordship thought that the Porte should be made to understand that unless it could carry out the April Agreement within three weeks from the receipt of a simultaneous communication from the Representatives at Constantinople, it would be expected to join the Powers in assisting the Prince of Montenegro to take possession by force of the Dulcigno district under the alternative plan.

I proceeded to read to M. de Freycinet, from a memorandum which I had brought h me, the substance of the detailed statement of your Lordship's views, as stated in your telegram to Mr. Goschen, and I asked him whether he would be disposed to send instructions in conformity with them to the French Ambassador at Constantinople.

M. de Freycinet said that he would consider the matter, and send me an answer without delay.

At his request I left with him the memorandum which I had read to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 170.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 581.) *Paris, July 8, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAD this morning the honour to receive your Lordship's despatches Nos. 840 and 841, both of the 6th instant, relative to the affairs of the Lebanon.

This evening, in pursuance of the instruction contained in the latter despatch, I recounted to M. de Freycinet the information which had reached Her Majesty's Government about the withdrawal by the Porte of a regiment of dragoons, hitherto under the control of the Governor of the Lebanon, and I asked his Excellency whether he would be disposed to join Her Majesty's Government in remonstrating with the Porte against any change being made in the arrangements hitherto in force with regard to the regiment in question.

In pursuance of the instruction in the former despatch, I spoke to M. de Freycinet of the claim put forward by the Vali of Syria (Midhat Pasha) to the district named Haurisch, and I asked his Excellency whether he would be prepared to join Her Majesty's Government in a representation to the Porte against this encroachment on the territory of the Lebanon.

M. de Freycinet said that he would examine these matters, and give me an answer respecting them as soon as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 171.

Prince Lobanow to Earl Granville.—(Received July 10.)

Ce 9 Juillet, 1880.

Mon cher Comte,

RENTRÉ chez moi, j'ai trouvé un télégramme de M. de Giers, qui m'annonce que l'Empereur adhère à la combinaison que vous avez suggérée relativement au Monténégro, si les autres Puissances y donnent également leur assentiment.

Je m'empresse de vous faire part de ce qui précède.

Votre bien dévoué,
(Signé) LOBANOW.

No. 172.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 10, 8 A.M.)

(No. 105.) *Constantinople, July 9, 1880, midnight.*
(Telegraphic.)

FRENCH Ambassador showed me very confidential telegram he received from Paris, dated 8th, instructing him again to inform Ministers here of immense danger they are running; that they are fatally precipitating events and leading up to the catastrophe of the Empire.

This is the second time the French Ambassador has received instructions to make these representations somewhat ostentatiously. Other Ambassadors have expressed some little surprise at French Ambassador having received orders to seek Sultan and make separate representations as reported to you in my telegram No. 93 of the 1st instant. I told French Ambassador that a trained diplomatist would probably believe that France was thus pressing on separately in order to prove her special friendship for Turkey, whom France was warning of the danger which others were preparing for her, but that I knew this could not be the case.

No. 173.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 10, 8 A.M.)

(No. 107.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 9, 1880, 1·30 P.M.*

FRENCH Ambassador has received telegram from Paris transmitting one from French Ambassador at London relative to Montenegro. It speaks of summoning Porte to join Powers in carrying out April Convention by force of arms, if the Porte does not execute it alone in three weeks. Has he not misunderstood you, or has the [group wrong] plan [group wrong] disappeared? Sir H. Elliot's telegram transmitted to me in your telegram No. 225 raises the question of forcible execution by Powers of Corti Convention, but all your previous telegrams point to execution of Dulcigno plan. With reference to Austrian view as to limiting intervention to a naval demonstration, I greatly doubt its sufficiency.

No. 174.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 10, 8 A.M.)

(No. 107?.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 9, 1880, 2 P.M.*

AMBASSADORS here think they would assist their respective Governments by preparing together a draft answer to Armenian proposals of the Porte, and submitting it to the Cabinets as a basis for consideration. We discussed the answer informally yesterday, and I have been asked to prepare heads of proposed reply [group wrong] with French Ambassador. It is understood we do not in the least commit our respective Governments, nor even ourselves, the work being preliminary only.

No. 175.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received July 10, 8 A.M.)

(No. 78.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, July 9, 1880, 11 P.M.*

WOULD your Lordship kindly tell me the exact proposal I am to submit to the Italian Government, as your Lordship's telegram No. 278 has not come out quite clear?

No. 176.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 10, 8 A.M.)

(No. 40.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, July 9, 1880, noon.*

YOUR telegram No. 30.

I have no reason to doubt that the Porte can carry out whatever it may wish in this province, provided it puts out its strength; but [group wrong] view of collected information obliges me to maintain my opinion that the North Albanians are at present fully resolved to [groups wrong] resist as far as possible the April arrangement.

I am under the impression that present conclusions of the Austrian Government cannot be based upon the reports of its Consul-General at Scutari.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 177.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 110.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 10, 1880.*

HAVE just received following information:—

Osman Pasha dismissed and replaced by Hussein Husni, formerly Vali of Scutari in Albania. Dervish Pasha, Commander of the Imperial Guard, also dismissed, and Kurd Ismail Pasha has replaced him.

Dismissal of Osman Pasha very significant, but much cannot be said in favour of his successor. Dervish Pasha was very superstitious and fanatical, but his successor is called the "oppressor of the Armenians."

I propose to make representation of impolicy of latter appointment, in view of Armenian question.

Respecting some of Hussein Husni's antecedents, see Mr. Green's despatch No. 107 of 22nd ultimo to your Lordship.

No. 178.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 99.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, July 10, 1880.

I HAVE spoken to Baron Haymerle about the conditions he had attached to the acceptation of your Lordship's proposal for a naval demonstration.

He says that he would not insist upon two ships being the number to be sent by each Power, but he [group unintelligible] wished the number to be defined.

Upon my asking whether, after requiring that all the Powers should take part, the probable abstention of Germany would make any difference in his decisions, he said that he hoped to persuade the German Government to co-operate, but if he fails in this I do not think he will withhold his own consent to the measure.

He insists very strongly on the understanding that there are to be no troops landed, and is quite unmoved by the arguments of the Russian Ambassador, who argues that such measure may become necessary if the demonstration is to have any practical effect.

No. 179.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 100.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, July 10, 1880.

THE draft of the collective note and the award of the Conference have already been forwarded to the Austrian Representatives at Constantinople and Athens, with instructions to concert with their colleagues about their communication to the Government to which they are accredited.

No. 180.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 58.)
(Telegraphic.)
Berlin, July 10, 1880.

YOUR Lordship's No. 298.

Count Hatzfeldt will be instructed to concert and act with his colleagues for presentation of collective note to the Porte.

Prince Hohenlohe thinks communication of collective note should be made the same day at Constantinople and at Athens.

No. 181.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received July 10, 4:30 P.M.)

(No. 79.)
(Telegraphic.)
Rome, July 10, 1880, 2 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's No. 286.

Instructions will be sent to Italian Ambassador at Constantinople to concert with his colleagues for the presentation to the Porte of the collective note drafted by the Berlin Conference as soon as the copy of the draft and the award of the Conference have reached the respective Embassies at Constantinople.

No. 181*a*.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 294.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, July 10, 1880, 8 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram No. 78, the proposal is that a communication, the form of which would be settled by the Ambassadors at Constantinople, should be made to the

Porte, to the effect that unless the April agreement is carried out within three weeks from the date of the communication the Porte will be expected to join the Powers in assisting the Prince of Montenegro to take possession of the Dulcigno district.

Her Majesty's Government have agreed with the Austrian Government that, if the contingency arises, those of the Powers to whom it may be convenient should take part in a naval demonstration, each Power being limited to two vessels, and no troops to be landed.

The Russian and German Governments have agreed to address a note to the latter, with the reserve that they will not themselves take an active part. Austria has promised to send ships; France has not yet answered.

No. 182.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 240.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, July 10, 1880, 11 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram No. 107 of yesterday, Her Majesty's Government would be glad if you and your colleagues would draft an answer to Armenian proposals for consideration. It will be very useful.

No. 183.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 910.)
My Lord,
Foreign Office, July 10, 1880.

WITH reference to Mr. Goschen's telegram No. 105, which was repeated to your Excellency in my telegram No. 248 of the 10th instant, I have to request that you will call the attention of the French Government to the apparent misunderstanding as to the proposal respecting the Montenegrin Arrangement.

It has not been proposed to summon the Porte to join the Powers in executing the April Agreement by force of arms, which could only be done by the Powers landing troops. The proposal is confined to the Dulcigno plan, and to that of a naval demonstration by those of the Powers to whom it may be convenient to send ships with that object.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 184.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 364.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, July 10, 1880.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 78 of yesterday's date, in which you request to be informed of the exact proposal which your Excellency is to submit to the Italian Government in regard to a joint action of the Powers in the question of the Montenegrin frontier; and I have now to state to you, in reply, that the proposal is that a simultaneous communication, the form of which would be settled by the Ambassadors at Constantinople, should be made to the Porte, to the effect that unless the April Agreement is carried out within three weeks from the date of this communication, the Porte will be expected to join the Powers in assisting the Prince of Montenegro to take possession of the Dulcigno district.

Her Majesty's Government have agreed with the Austrian Government that if the contingency arises, those of the Powers to whom it may be convenient should take part in a naval demonstration, each Power being limited to contributing two vessels for this purpose, and it being understood that no troops are to be landed.

The Russian and German Governments have agreed to address a note to the Porte, the latter with the reservation that they will not themselves take an active part in the demonstration.

Austria, however, has engaged to send ships, but up to the present time the answer of the French Government on this subject has not been received.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 185.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 100.) *Foreign Office, July 10, 1880.*

Sir,

I FORWARD herewith a copy of a legal opinion on the so-called Bavarian-Greek Loan, which has been received by Lord Odo Russell from the author, Dr. Hamann von Sicherer, who states that he has been sent to Berlin by Prince Louis Ferdinand of Bavaria to represent the claims against the Greek Treasury inherited by His Royal Highness from the estate of the late King Louis I of Bavaria.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 186.

Lord Tenterden to Captain Sale.

Foreign Office, July 10, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch of the 21st ultimo, relative to a telegram from Wessel Bey to the Albanians, inciting them to resistance, I am directed by Earl Granville to ask you what evidence there is as to its having been actually sent by him. Abaddin Pasha and Wessel Bey positively deny the sending of any such telegram, and state that the only one from him was dispatched from Prisrend some time ago, and was to the effect that the Albanians were to desist from resistance, and were simply to put their case before the Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 187.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 11, 1:55 P.M.)

(No. 41.) *Scutari, July 10, 1880, 10·11 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

ALL the Roman Catholic volunteers who were sent to defend Duleigno have now returned to eastern side of Lake of Scutari; about 300 Mahommedans, besides the inhabitants, remaining at the former place. The mountaineers declare they are going to precipitate matters by attacking reinforcements, but I trust their Commanders will still be able to keep them under control.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 188.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 11, 3·2 P.M.)

(No. 42.) *Scutari, July 10, 1880, 11·55 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

MONTENEGRIN Minister for Foreign Affairs communicates to me that Turkish Minister has informed Montenegrin Government that the Porte is prepared to deliver up immediately to the Principality the territories ceded by the April Convention.

Reply has been made that affairs are in the hands of the Great Powers, but that the Principality has no objection to accept whichever of the two solutions lately discussed they may approve, provided the Porte gives the Powers sufficient guarantee that the settlement will be prompt, regular, and honest.

The delay which had been experienced at Constantinople by the Ambassadors in receiving an answer to their note on Montenegrin affairs had decided the Prince to recall his Chargé d'Affaires, but the present steps of the Porte have caused his departure to be suspended until further orders.

I shall reply to the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs that I believe Her Majesty's Government have no objection to make to the due execution of the April Convention; but I venture to express to your Lordship the conviction that the proposal of the Porte must be looked upon with the greatest suspicion, and that, even if it is sincere, difficulties are sure to arise here.

No. 189.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 11, 6·9 P.M.)

(No. 43. Most Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)

Scutari, July 11, 1880, noon.

THE Vali informs the Albanians in his confidence that the Porte is disposed to give up all the territory of the April Convention, but that negotiations are going on in Montenegro to induce Prince Nicolas to accept only the Kuci Krajna and a very small portion of Gruda. If this is refused nothing will be given; and the Pasha states that he has informed Porte that he will not attempt to coerce the Albanians, who will certainly resist.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 190.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received July 11, 3 8 P.M.)

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.)

Pera, July 11, 1880, 2 P.M.

MEETING yesterday. Programme up to Article 100, but the financial Articles 80 to 90 posponed till next meeting. Ottoman Commissioners were informed that we should decline [?] to discuss Articles 27-4 to 490, but expected Articles as to gendarmerie, police, and Tribunals to be presented; these are now wanting.

No. 191.

Colonel Miles to Earl Granville.—(Received July 11, 11·59 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Bagdad, July 11, 1880, 5·50 P.M.

EUPHRATES Company's steamer "Khalifeh," arrived here to-day, reports having been attacked near Ezrah tomb on morning of 8th instant by Arabs, who kept up incessant fire on her for half-an-hour, but failed in attempt to board. A quartermaster and one passenger killed, and Captain Clements wounded. Attack was desperate, and quite unprecedented as regards English steamers. No provocation had been given, and cause of hostility is unknown.

No. 192.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 208. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Athens, June 21, 1880.

M. TRICOUPI told me to-day that the Greek Representatives at Berlin had been informed by Prince Bismarck that unless their Government were willing to make some settlement with regard to an old debt due by this country to Bavaria, of which there has been no official mention since the year 1860, they could not expect Germany to vote in favour of Greece at the Berlin Conference.

Several French claims have also been put forward, unofficially supported by the Government, pressing for a favourable settlement in return for the action of France in the frontier question.

As regards the Egyptian Liquidation Decree, similar arguments were made use of by M. de Freycinet in his instruction to the French Chargé d'Affaires here, urging Greece to give her adhesion to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 193.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 212. Secret and Confidential.)

Athens, June 25, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Hellenic Government are very anxious to ascertain the views of the Governments of England and France as to the time to be selected for calling out the reserves and mobilizing the army. They wish to avoid doing so until there is some likelihood of active employment for the troops, as it would be difficult to keep the reserves embodied for longer than six months without such employment.

A call has been made for volunteers, which has been satisfactorily responded to, but it is impossible to count upon sufficient numbers of them to raise the army to a war footing, or to undertake the occupation of the ceded provinces.

The matériel, however, for an army on a war footing, is being energetically collected.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 194.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 214. Secret and Confidential.)

Athens, June 30, 1880.

My Lord,

M. TRICOUPI has heard from the King and also from the Greek Agents in London and Berlin that it is thought undesirable that Greece should make immediate and active military preparations in order to take possession of the territory which it is understood is to be ceded by Turkey.

His Excellency told me that he should write to the King to-day urging strongly that the reserves should be called out at once; and although it is necessary, according to law, to convoke the Chamber for the purpose of communicating to it that this had been done, he thought it might be possible to postpone the date of its assembly for two months after the mobilization of the army was decreed, on the ground that by that time a full communication of the result of the Conference at Berlin might be made to the country.

He thinks it of the greatest importance that the Greek Government should be in a position to occupy at once the territory which may be ceded to them. Volunteers are coming in quickly, and natives of Epirus and Thessaly are being enrolled, as M. Tricoupi said, that when the Greeks entered into those provinces the inhabitants would certainly take up arms, and it was better that those who were disposed to fight should do so as soldiers of the Greek army than as partisans without discipline and not under regular military authority.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 195.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 215. Confidential.)

Athens, June 30, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship an extract from a private and confidential letter from Mr. Stillman, an American citizen, who is well acquainted with Greece and European Turkey from long residence in them and from his family connections. He gives an account of the present state of the Ionian Islands as compared with their state under the British Protectorate. The picture is a gloomy one, and I believe the same remarks apply to the Peloponnesus and Continental Greece in general.

The insecurity of the tenure of office by the civil and municipal authorities is looked upon as one of the greatest evils under which this country suffers, the appointments to all offices, from that of Nomarch downwards, being considered the legitimate spoil of

political partizanship and as the rewards of votes given in favour of a candidate for election to the Chamber.

Voters are induced to vote for a candidate on the promise of obtaining for them some personal advantage, and as the demand for places is largely in excess of the supply, those who are disappointed direct all their efforts to overturn the Government which has failed to satisfy them, and a combination of the disaffected and dissatisfied results in the Ministry finding themselves in a minority, not on any question of principle, but simply from their inability to satisfy the claims for places made upon them. This has happened twice in the year and a half that I have been at Athens, and on each occasion no one of the parties who had combined to overthrow the Government being able to command a sufficient majority to take office, the Ministry they had overthrown returned to power.

In conversation M. Tricoupi has acknowledged the great evil of this state of things, but he said a beginning had been made to remedy it by the permanence of office which exists as regards the Judges, the Diplomatic and Consular Services, and in a great measure the Custom-house employés.

By Article 107 of the Constitution the necessity for its revision is considered indisputable if the Chamber of Deputies, in two consecutive Parliamentary Sessions, by a majority of three-fourths of the whole number of members, demands it, specifying at the same time the Articles to be revised. The revision being voted, a special Constituent Assembly must be called, containing double the number of members which would decide as to the revision of the Articles objected to. As there is no hope at present and in future of such a demand being made by the Chamber, the majority of the members of which are interested in the continuation of the present state of things, many persons, members of the Chamber and others, despairing of bringing about a reform of the Constitution by regular means, have expressed to me and to some of my colleagues here the hope that when a Constituent Assembly, which it is expected will be called together on the occasion of the annexation of Epirus and Thessaly, meets, some modification of the present Constitution might be made in order to remedy the evils from which the country now suffers, and it is even hoped that the protecting Powers might be disposed to make some representations to this Government in that direction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 196.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 216. Confidential.)

Athens, June 30, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram of the 21st instant, M. Tricoupi told me to-day that Prince Hohenlohe had sent for M. Brailas and pressed upon him, by direction of Prince Bismarck, very strongly the necessity that Greece, if she desired to have the support of Germany in the present Conference at Berlin, should settle at once the debt which he alleged was due by the former to Bavaria, and his Highness suggested that the German Minister at Munich should come to an arrangement with a Greek Agent to be sent there for the purpose.

M. Tricoupi said he was much surprised by this sudden revival, after an interval of twenty years, of a claim amounting to 5,000,000 or 6,000,000 fr., although, on the other hand, Greece has large claims for the payment of Bavarian soldiers during their occupation of Greece in the first years of the reign of King Otho to set against it. He added that, in order to secure the vote of Germany at the Conference, he would be willing to make the sacrifice of the sum demanded: no payment could be made without the sanction of the Chamber.

He has sent a memorandum on the subject to the Greek Minister at Berlin, in answer to the Bavarian claim, which would have arrived there after the termination of the Conference, but has not as yet made any answer to Prince Hohenlohe's suggestion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 197.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 217.)
My Lord, *Athens, July 1, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 9 of the 25th ultimo, directing me to abstain from giving any opinion at all as to the use of force by Greece to carry out the decisions of the Berlin Conference, and to assure your Lordship that I have strictly abstained from doing so, except on the occasion reported in my despatch No. 203 of the 17th ultimo.

I think, however, that if Greece unaided should attempt to take possession of Epirus and Thessaly, in opposition to Turkey, even if guaranteed against an attack by sea by the latter, she would, in the present state of her army, be quite unable to do so, opposed as she would be by the 40,000 Ottoman troops now concentrated in those provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 198.

Mr. L. Gould to Earl Granville.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 50. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, July 7, 1880.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 38 of the 1st instant, transmitting a despatch from Sir Henry Elliot, marked No. 271, Confidential, in which his Excellency states that Baron Kallay had confirmed the report that the Austrian Government had abandoned the idea of making representations against the agrarian law at Belgrade, in consequence of its acceptance by the Turkish Government, I have the honour to state that though it is a fact that the Porte has recognized the validity of the measure no progress has been made towards settling the question, owing to the reluctance of the Tchiflik proprietors to submit their claims to the constituted Courts. This unwillingness, I have heard on good authority, is encouraged by local Turkish officials, who persuade the would-be claimants that the appointed Judges have no right to interfere with their possessions. Should this statement be correct—as I believe it to be—the irresponsible action of these Turkish officials is deeply to be regretted, as, after the acquiescence of the Porte, the law will have to take its course, and once the delay therein granted for submitting claims has expired, the unfortunate proprietors will, through the thoughtlessness of others, have sacrificed to no purpose the compensation they might have obtained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS E. GOULD.

No. 199.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 372.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 5, 1880.*

I INQUIRED to-day whether the Austro-Hungarian Government had replied to the proposal made by your Lordship to Count Károlyi for a naval demonstration in the neighbourhood of Dulcigno.

I was informed that a telegram to Count Károlyi is being drawn up, conveying, in general terms, the consent of the Imperial Government, but at the same time indicating some points upon which an understanding is considered necessary before such a measure is resolved upon.

It would not be thought advisable for the Powers to go the length of inviting the Prince of Montenegro to attempt the occupation of the district of Dulcigno, as they would thereby inconveniently commit themselves to insure the success of the operation, and the Prince, believing himself able to calculate upon receiving material assistance, would not think it necessary to exert himself energetically in carrying it out by himself.

It would be greatly preferred here if the proposed demonstration could be confined to English and Austrian ships; but if such an arrangement could not be made it is desired that vessels from all the Treaty Powers should take part in it.

I have stated that the great object of Her Majesty's Government being to maintain a

common action among all the Powers, I was convinced that it would be useless to propose to your Lordship the exclusion of any of them from participation in the projected operation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 200.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 374.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 7, 1880.*

I COMMUNICATED to Baron Haymerle the substance of Mr. Green's telegram No. 56 of the 4th instant, stating that he did not consider it probable that the April Convention could be carried out without the coercion of the Roman Catholic tribes, and that an attempt by the Porte to execute it would resolve the question into a struggle between Mussulmans and Christians.

His Excellency does not share the opinion thus expressed by Mr. Green, although he recognizes it as indisputable that, if the Porte were frankly to accept the scheme for the cession of the Dulcigno district, it could be carried out with infinitely greater ease than the April arrangement; but, in his opinion, the difficulty in the execution of either of the two plans will mainly depend upon the attitude and action of the Porte.

If the Turkish Government are about to dispatch 6,000 troops, as Abédine Pasha informed Mr. Goschen, with an honest determination of carrying out the April arrangement, and at the same time distributes sufficient money among the Albanian leaders, Baron Haymerle believes that the thing can be done without much difficulty.

He sees no ground for the apprehension expressed by Mr. Green that the annexation of the Roman Catholic tribes to Montenegro would lead to a struggle between them and the Mussulmans, especially as, notwithstanding the affinity of race, it may be supposed that the latter would rather see the Christians separated from them than populations of their own faith.

His Excellency's views upon the present position of the question may, I believe, be summed up as follows:—

He has a very decided preference for the scheme suggested by Mr. Green over the April arrangement, but, believing that its pacific execution must depend upon the goodwill of the Porte, which there does not appear much prospect of obtaining, he would not be in favour of adhering to it if the Turkish Government show a readiness to fulfil the agreement for which it was to be substituted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 201.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 376. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 7, 1880.*

BARON HAYMERLE mentioned to me yesterday that your Lordship, in speaking to Count Károlyi of the suggested naval demonstration off Dulcigno, had alluded to a possibility of combining with it the dispatch of some man-of-war boats into the Boyana.

He had obtained from the Imperial Intelligence Department a Report upon that river, and he confidentially gave me the copy of it, which I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 201.

Report upon the Boyana.

LA Boyana est le cours d'eau qui relie le Lac de Scutari à la Mer Adriatique. C'est une rivière au cours tortueux et plein de sinuosités.

La longueur de la Boyana, depuis le point où elle quitte le Lac de Scutari jusqu'à son embouchure, est de 5 milles géographiques.

A l'endroit où elle se jette dans la mer elle forme une barre d'une étendue assez considérable. Cette barre est traversée par un seul chenal navigable, mais dont l'emplacement change souvent sous l'influence du vent et de la lame. C'est ainsi qu'en 1870 le chenal navigable se trouvait plus rapproché de la rive méridionale, tandis que cette année-ci il se trouve situé plus vers le nord. A l'endroit le plus bas ce chenal n'a que 4½ pieds de profondeur.

La largeur de la rivière varie entre 100 mètres et 160 mètres. Cependant au printemps et en automne—saisons des grandes crues—la Boyana inonde quelquefois le terrain qu'elle parcourt, à une étendue de plusieurs kilomètres. Ce n'est qu'alors qu'elle est réellement navigable, même pour des bateaux qui jaugent un tonnage plus considérable, tels que par exemple les deux monitors Turcs qui se trouvent sur le Lac de Scutari. Mais en été, lorsque les eaux sont basses, la navigation de la Boyana devient très-difficile; elle n'est guère possible que moyennant des canots plats qu'on appelle "Londrás" dans le pays. Des bas-fonds, des quartiers de rochers encombrant le lit de la rivière, les coudes brusques qu'elle fait sont autant d'empêchements pour tout bateau dont les dimensions surpassent celles des chalans dont se servent les habitants. Aux endroits où, par suite d'un rapprochement des deux rives, le courant devient plus rapide, la navigation offre même des dangers sérieux à cause de nombreux remouts que forme la rivière en passant par ces défilés.

La profondeur de la Boyana pendant l'été varie de 0·5 mètres à 2 mètres. En amont d'Oboti elle est encore moins considérable.

Outre la barre il y a encore deux endroits où la navigation rencontre des difficultés particulières, c'est entre Frascaniel et Bélén, à cause de nombreux remouts et près des embouchures du Drin et du Kiri, dont les eaux déposent dans le lit de la Boyana des masses considérables de sable et de limon. C'est ici l'endroit le moins profond de la rivière. En aval de Scutari il y a également un défilé étroit dont le passage est assez difficile.

Le terrain que traverse la Boyana est une plaine. Les rives sont facilement accessibles pendant l'été à l'exception de quelques endroits marécageux. La berge, haute, en moyenne, de 1·5 mètres jusqu'à 3 mètres, consiste en terre molle.

Il n'y a pas de routes le long de la Boyana. Cependant, comme le terrain n'est pas accidenté, un mouvement de troupes n'y rencontrerait pas d'obstacles sérieux.

No. 202.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 377. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 7, 1880.*

M. D'OUBRIL, the Russian Ambassador, has been instructed by his Government to assure Baron Haymerle that Prince Lobanoff, in suggesting to your Lordship that Russian troops might be sent in English ships to Greece to carry out the award of the Berlin Conference, had spoken entirely for himself and without authority.

This communication seems to have made very little impression upon his Excellency, who has always believed the Russian Government to be desirous of bringing about a European intervention in Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 203.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 289.)
My Lord, *Berlin, July 8, 1880.*

PRINCE HOHENLOHE, to whom I communicated the tenour of your Lordship's instructions to Her Majesty's Minister at Athens, recommending the Greek Government to desist from premature military measures, told me that the German Government entirely concurred with that of Her Majesty, and that he had already spoken to the Greek Minister at this Court in the same sense.

His Highness added that he would send similar instructions to the German Chargé d'Affaires at Athens.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 204.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 291.)
My Lord, *Berlin, July 8, 1880.*

I HAVE communicated to Prince Hohenlohe the substance of your Lordship's telegram respecting the proposal to inform the Porte that, in the event of their being unable to carry out the April Agreement they are pledged to, in regard to the Montenegrin frontier, within three weeks from the date of the receipt of a simultaneous communication of the Ambassadors, the Powers would expect the Porte to join them in assisting the Prince of Montenegro to take possession by force of the Dulcigno district under the alternative plan.

Prince Hohenlohe said that the German Government had no objection to the proposed communication, but would not take part in the naval demonstration which would have to follow it.

His Highness, however, added that he would submit the matter to Prince Bismarck before giving me a final answer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 205.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 298.)
My Lord, *Berlin, July 10, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 291 of the 8th instant, I have just been informed by Prince Hohenlohe that, if the Powers unanimously agree to sending ships to assist the Porte in carrying out the settlement of the Montenegrin frontier question, the German Government would also send vessels to the Adriatic to take part in the proposed naval demonstration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 206.

Lieutenant-Colonel Methuen to Lord Odo Russell.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 12.)

(No. 46. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, July 10, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that yesterday certain officers in the general staff were asked officially whether they would like to proceed to Turkey to act as instructors in the Turkish army.

My informant has himself received the offer, but does not know how many have been asked.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PAUL METHUEN.

No. 207.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 588.)
My Lord, *Paris, July 11, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 580 of the 8th instant, and to telegrams which I had the honour to receive from your Lordship last night, I think it advisable to

send your Lordship a copy of the memorandum which I left with M. de Freycinet, and which stated the terms of the communication to the Porte suggested by your Lordship with regard to Montenegro.

Your Lordship will see that (with the exception only of inversions necessary to avoid betraying the cypher) it is almost identical with your Lordship's instructions to me; and you will observe in particular that it leaves no doubt whatever that it is the Dulcigno district exclusively which is referred to in the proposed declaration that the Porte will be expected to join the Powers in assisting the Prince of Montenegro to take possession by force.

Your Lordship's instructions did not specify the nature of the assistance to be afforded by the Powers in the case supposed to the Prince of Montenegro.

I inclose also a copy of a letter which I have now written to M. de Freycinet in order to correct the mistake into which the French Ambassador in London appears to have fallen, and at the same time to point out that your Lordship's proposal is confined to the navies of the Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 207.

Memorandum given to M. de Freycinet.

THE Porte should be informed that it is impossible for the Powers to allow the system of delay regarding the Montenegrin frontier to be resorted to afresh. The Porte appears to be sending 6,000 men and money to the spot; and it is therefore to be presumed that notwithstanding previous declarations of the impossibility of the operation, now considers that these measures will suffice to enable it to execute the arrangement to which it pledged itself in April.

It would be more in the interest of the Porte to give effect at once to the Dulcigno proposal, and the Powers consider that this course would be the most advantageous to all parties, and strongly recommend the Porte to take it.

If, however, the Porte should persist in adhering to the April arrangement, it must understand that unless it can carry out this arrangement within three weeks, it will be expected to join the Powers in assisting the Prince of Montenegro to take possession by force of the Dulcigno district under the alternative plan.

The Ambassadors at Constantinople to address a simultaneous communication to the above effect to the Ottoman Government, to state in it that the delay of three weeks will run from the receipt thereof at the Porte.

Instruction: To sound the French Government on this proposal and to ask whether they would be disposed to send instructions in conformity with it to their Ambassador at Constantinople.

Paris, July 8, 1880.

Inclosure 2 in No. 207.

Lord Lyons to M. de Freycinet.

Paris, July 11, 1880.

My dear President of the Council,

SOME misconception appears to have arisen as to the terms of the communication to the Porte respecting Montenegro proposed by Lord Granville.

They were quite correctly stated by me to your Excellency on the 8th instant, both verbally and in a memorandum which I had the honour of leaving with you. The suggestion as to assisting the Prince of Montenegro was clearly confined to the Dulcigno plan.

I may, moreover, take this opportunity of mentioning that, in Lord Granville's view, the intervention of the Powers would be confined to their navies.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 208.

M. Contostavlos to Earl Granville.—(Received July 12.)

(Confidentielle.)

My Lord, *Ce Samedi, 10 Juillet,* 1880.

LA grave responsabilité qui pèse sur le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Hellénique de ne pas se trouver impuissant au moment critique où il devra procéder à l'occupation des provinces concédées à la Grèce par la décision de la Conférence de Berlin, lui a fait penser, aussitôt après la connaissance de cette décison, à procéder immédiatement aux préparatifs nécessaires, et en premier lieu à la mobilisation de son armée par l'appel des réserves et à la convocation de la Chambre des Députés, ces deux mesures devant être prises simultanément d'après les termes des lois fondamentales en vigueur. Mais ce même Gouvernement ayant cru devoir s'abstenir de l'exécution de ces deux mesures par suite des conseils qui lui ont été adressés par la plupart des Grandes Puissances, à l'effet de se tenir tranquille le plus possible et éviter soigneusement toute mesure qui pourrait avoir le caractère de démonstration ou de provocation envers la Turquie, se trouve de nouveau embarrassé sur la conduite à suivre, à cause des nouvelles contenues dans les rapports de ses Agents en Turquie, qui font connaître d'une manière indubitable les démarches et les manœuvres du Gouvernement Turc dans le but de lui rendre impossible, autant qu'il tient à lui, l'occupation des provinces en question. Pour que votre Excellence puisse se faire elle-même une idée des démarches et des manœuvres de la Porte allégnées plus haut, je me permets de soumettre à votre Excellence, ci-incluse, la traduction de deux communications de M. Tricoupi sous date de 21 Juin (v.s.). Mais ce qui donne à ces nouvelles une importance plus grave encore et augmente la perplexité du Gouvernement Hellénique sur la voie à suivre relativement à ces préparatifs, c'est un Rapport de M. Coundouriotis, Ministre de Sa Majesté Hellénique à Constantinople, par lequel il opine formellement qu'il faudrait procéder sans délai à la mobilisation de l'armée pour que nous soyons à même d'occuper immédiatement les provinces concédées à la Grèce, aussitôt après avoir obtenu la permission des Grandes Puissances, dans le but de réduire à des limites aussi étroites que possible le temps laissé au Gouvernement Turc pour organiser la résistance dans ces provinces.

Interrogé par mon Gouvernement après l'exposé des faits qui précède, sur l'opinion que j'ai pu me former d'après mes explications avec votre Excellence, à savoir, si le conseil qui m'a été donné, d'éviter avec soin pour le présent toute mesure précipitée qui pourrait paraître comme une démonstration ou une provocation, doit être regardé comme ayant trait aussi aux deux mesures susdites: de l'appel des réserves et de la convocation de la Chambre, je me trouve dans la nécessité de prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien me communiquer son avis pour que je puisse être guidé dans l'explication relative que je dois donner à mon Gouvernement.

Dans l'espérance que votre Excellence, appréciant ma situation dans cette circonstance, voudra bien excuser la liberté que je me permets, j'ai l'honneur, &c.
(Signé) CONTOSTAVLOS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 208.

M. Tricoupi to M. Contostavlos.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre, *Athens, June* 21, 1880.

CONFIRMING my telegram of the 10th instant, in which I informed you that martial law had been declared at Prevesa, I now further inform you that it has likewise been declared at Arta, and that by order of the Military Governor of that place all discussion in public places on this subject has been prohibited.

Inclosure 2 in No. 208.

M. Tricoupi to M. Contostavlos.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre, *Athens, June* 21, 1880.

HIS Majesty's Minister in Constantinople informs me that soldiers belonging to the Artillery are being sent to the Fort of Prevesa by way of Corfu in companies of

from five to ten, wearing the dress of civilians, and with the greatest secrecy, and that some sixty of these have already departed.

Two brothers, Albanian Mussulmans, orderly officers of the Sultan, have also left for Corfu *en route* to Epirus, with the object of organizing resistance to the annexation of certain parts of Epirus to Greece. They have likewise received instructions to distribute arms to all Mussulmans who are not already provided with such. The Christians, however, are unarmed, having been deprived of all weapons by the Turkish Governors. Martial law has been proclaimed at Prevesa and Arta, and all public political discussion has been prohibited.

By these means the Porte seeks, on the one hand, to strengthen the action of the Albanians, and, on the other, to prevent any demonstration on the part of the Christians.

Notwithstanding, however, that the Porte is attempting by any and every means to foment an ingemine, so to speak, Albanian movement, and by its agents to urge the Mussulman population to resist the decisions of Europe, we have received information from which we draw the conclusion that the Mussulmans are by no means inclined to resist, and that they will accept the new order of things if only their landed possessions are satisfactorily secured to them.

The above information has been received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Volo, who, while visiting Larissa, came into contact with some leading Mussulmans. We likewise draw the same conclusion from an account which reaches us from Corfu of a conversation between the Albanian Kiasim Bey (a relative of Abédine Pasha) and the Governor. Notwithstanding this, the Porte is actively engaged in attempting to set flame to the fanaticism of the Albanians, and to prepare them for resistance. I have at this moment several communications before me describing the action of the Porte. It appears that the appointment of Abédine Pasha to the post of Minister for Foreign Affairs added fresh impetus to these practices.

According to information received from His Majesty's Consul-General in Salonica, Beisel Bey, brother of Abédine Pasha, has resigned the post of Aide-de-camp to the Sultan, and departed for Prevesa with the object of enlisting Albanians, and descending to Janina.

In short, from all sources of information the Porte is described as leaving no means untried to attain her object.

No. 209.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 12.)

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, July* 11, 1880.

REPETITION of my telegram No. 39:—

I have received to-day a note, dated the 4th instant, from the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs, and which has also been addressed to the other foreign Representatives in the Principality, detailing the further dangers and charges to which Montenegro has been exposed by the unprovoked North Albanian demonstration from the side of Dulcigno.

It earnestly appeals to the enlightened good-will of the Powers to take steps to put an end as quickly as possible to a state of things in this province which can only lead to most grave complications, and for which Principality cannot be held responsible nor liable as to the future.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 210.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 247.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 12, 1880.

WITH reference to Colonel Miles' telegram of 11th, respecting attack by Arabs on English steamer, represent matter at once to Porte, that instructions may be sent for inquiry and punishment of offenders.

No. 211.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 12, 1 P.M.)

(No. 49.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, July* 12, 1880, 12·10 P.M.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 588 of yesterday, I have received a long written answer from the French Government, which I shall send to you this evening.

They are willing to declare to the Porte that, if it does not execute the Count Corti arrangement within three weeks, the Powers must consider that it is unable to do so, and must confer with each other on the measures to be taken to execute the Dulcigno plan.

They object to threaten the Porte with coercive measures without being sure beforehand that all the Powers are equally ready to take part in such measures.

They would hesitate to join in a naval demonstration in the Adriatic, especially if the object of it was confined to the execution of the arrangements concerning Montenegro.

No. 212.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 12, 1·30 P.M.)

(No. 50.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, July* 12, 1880, 10·50 A.M.

YOUR telegram No. 247.

French Minister for Foreign Affairs thinks that the collective note should be presented at Constantinople and at Athens on the same day, and asks if you agree.

I have received a written note from him on the subject, which I shall send you this evening.

No. 213.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 33.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 12, 1880, 4 P.M.

YOUR No. 42 of the 10th July.

I approve your proposed answer to Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs respecting execution of April Convention.

No. 214.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No 265.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 12, 1880, 6·50 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 50.

Her Majesty's Government concur in opinion of French Government as to presentation of collective note, and will leave their Representatives at Constantinople and Athens to arrange accordingly between themselves and with their colleagues.

No. 215.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 266.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 12, 1880, 6·55 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram No. 49 of this day, you may state to M. de Freycinet that the proceedings which it is proposed to take to insist on the settlement of the Montenegrin frontier must be considered as part of the general plan for carrying out the Treaty of Berlin.

Her Majesty's Government had carefully abstained from menacing the Porte, as they desired to act only in communication with the other Powers.

It was with this spirit that, when they had reason to believe that Austria was ready to act alone with England on the Dulcigno coast, Her Majesty's Government proposed that the other Powers should be invited to join.

All the Powers will, Her Majesty's Government believe, join in addressing a simultaneous communication to the Porte, and they have no reason to doubt that the majority will also send ships.

They have heard that the French Ambassador at Constantinople has twice addressed the Porte in language conveying menace, and they think that it would be very undesirable if the French Government, by holding aloof on the Montenegrin question, were to lead the Porte to believe that that language was not seriously intended.

One of the great advantages of a naval demonstration on the coast of Dulcigno will be to take away the idea from the Turks that they can rely on Europe abstaining from using force to carry out the execution of their demands, and will greatly assist the negotiations for effecting a peaceable solution of the Greek difficulty.

No. 216.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.**

(No. 252.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, July 12, 1880, 7·30 P.M.

MY telegram to Lord Lyons No. 265 of to-day repeated to you.

You should act accordingly.

No. 217.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 234.)

Foreign Office, July 12, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 88, Very Confidential, of the 29th ultimo, in which you inclose a copy of what purports to be a letter addressed by Abeddin Pasha to the Albanian Chiefs on his appointment to the post of Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Her Majesty's Government approve the language you held to Abeddin Pasha with a view of ascertaining whether he was really the author of this document, and whether his brother Wessel Bey or he were inciting the Albanians to resistance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 218.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 74.)

Foreign Office, July 12, 1880.

Sir,

YOU inform me, in your telegram No. 42 of the 10th instant, that the Porte has assured the Montenegrin Government of its readiness to deliver up the territories ceded by the April Convention, and that the Montenegrin Government has replied that its affairs are in the hands of the Powers, but that, for its own part, it is willing to accept whichever solution of the present difficulty they may recommend.

I have approved by telegraph the answer which you propose to give to the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs, to the effect that Her Majesty's Government have no objection to the due execution of the April Convention.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 219.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 365.)

Foreign Office, July 12, 1880.

Sir,

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and told me that his Government had received information of the concurrence of Russia in the course of proceeding which we had proposed with regard to the Montenegrin question.

* Also to Mr. Corbett (No. 19).

He added that the Italian Government would give instructions to their Representative at Constantinople to join in the intended communication to the Porte. He was still waiting for an answer as to whether they would be ready to take part in a naval demonstration off Dulcigno if the necessity arose.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 220.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 912.)

Foreign Office, July 12, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 50 of this day, in which you state that M. de Freycinet is of opinion that the Collective Note on the Turco-Greek frontier question should be presented at Constantinople and at Athens on the same day, and expresses the wish to know whether Her Majesty's Government agree to this plan.

I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government concur in M. de Freycinet's opinion, and will leave it to their Representatives at Constantinople and Athens to arrange accordingly between themselves and with their colleagues in those capitals.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 221.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 913.)

Foreign Office, July 12, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 49 of this day, reporting that you had received the answer of the French Government on the subject of the proposed measures for hastening an arrangement of the Montenegrin frontier question.

It would appear that the French Government are willing to declare to the Porte that if it does not carry out the Corfu arrangement within three weeks after the proposed communication is made to them the Powers must consider that they are unable to do so, and must then confer with each other as to the measures to be taken to carry into execution the Dulcigno plan.

The French Government, as I understand from your Excellency, object to threaten the Porte, with coercive measures, without being sure beforehand that all the Powers are equally ready to take part in such measures; and, furthermore, that they would hesitate to join in a naval demonstration in the Adriatic, especially if the object of it were confined to the execution of the arrangement concerning Montenegro.

Your Excellency states that you were about to forward M. de Freycinet's reply *in extenso*, but in the meantime you may state to his Excellency that the proceedings which it is proposed to take in order to insist on the settlement of the Montenegro frontier must be considered as part of the general plan for carrying out the Treaty of Berlin.

Your Excellency will point out that Her Majesty's Government had carefully abstained from menacing the Porte, as they desired to act only in communication with the other Powers.

It was in this spirit that, when they had reason to believe that Austria was ready to act alone with England on the Dulcigno coast, Her Majesty's Government proposed that the other Powers should be invited to join in any such proceedings.

Her Majesty's Government have reason to believe that all the Powers will join in addressing a simultaneous communication to the Porte, and they have no reason to doubt that the majority will also send ships.

They have heard that the French Ambassador at Constantinople has twice addressed the Porte in language conveying menace, and they think that it would be very undesirable if the French Government, by holding aloof on the Montenegrin question, were to lead the Porte to believe that that language was not seriously intended.

Her Majesty's Government consider that one of the great advantages of a naval

demonstration on the coast of Dulcigno will be to take away the idea from the Turk that they can rely upon Europe abstaining from using force to carry out the execution of their demands, and that it will greatly assist the negotiations for effecting a peaceable solution of the Greek difficulty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 222.

Lord Tenterden to General Sir L. Simmons.

Foreign Office, July 12, 1880.

Dear Sir Lintorn Simmons,

LORD GRANVILLE would be much obliged if you would prepare a short summary of the arguments which may, in your opinion, be used to the Porte in support of the award of the Berlin Conference.

The principal points that require to be dealt with are:—

1. The conformity of the line to the spirit if not the letter of the Berlin Protocol, especially in the direction of Mount Olympus.

2. The consideration given to the strategical interests of Turkey in fixing the frontier.

3. How far has the desire of Her Majesty's Government, expressed in the published instructions to Mr. Goschen, that there should be no forcible annexation to Greece of an unwilling Mussulman population in such numbers as to be a source of danger and insecurity, been realized?

Lord Granville would also be glad to be furnished with any arguments which may occur to you as useful to induce the Porte to accept the award of the Berlin Conference.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 223.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 302.) *Philippopoli, June 30, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship an article, which appeared in the "Maritza" yesterday, drawing the public attention to a large concentration of Turkish troops in the Vilayet of Adrianople, and pointing out that such action on the part of the Ottoman Government could not fail to arouse the suspicions of the Bulgarian population, and to provoke precautionary measures on their part from which, in the present state of the Ottoman Empire, they would gladly refrain.

The "Maritza" omits to state the nature of these precautionary measures.

I have not been able to ascertain accurately to what extent this rumour is correct, but from some remarks which dropped from Prince Tzeretelew, I am inclined to believe that it is much exaggerated, if not absolutely untrue.

The tone of this article, however, would seem to strengthen the belief, shared by the Consular body here, that the entry of the Turkish troops into the province, either with a view to occupying the Balkans or for any other purpose, would be unquestionably resisted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 224.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 303. Confidential.) *Philippopoli, July 1, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship a conversation which I had yesterday with M. Consoloff, Prefect of Philippopoli. As M. Consoloff is popularly supposed to have been one of the most active members of the Gymnastic Societies—if not their President—his opinions at the present moment are not devoid of interest.

Referring to the impression which had lately been produced in Europe, that the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia had not been making good use of the emancipation which had been secured for them, M. Consoloff admitted that events had perhaps taken place which might have tended towards producing so unfavourable an opinion. He was willing to own that many mistakes had been made, for which none were more sorry than the Bulgarians themselves. He begged me, however, to take into account the many difficulties they had had to contend with; to consider the situation in the province during the period from the signature of the Treaty of San Stefano to the departure of the army of occupation, and to remember that after all it was not unnatural, after centuries of oppression, that a population so suddenly emancipated as they had been should have felt, at the outset, elated by the dazzling expectations raised in their minds by the Russians. Feelings of gratitude towards Russia which, he maintained, reflected no discredit on them, combined with the disappointment occasioned by the discouraging check which their aspirations had received by the attitude of the other Powers during the Congress of Berlin and the formation of the Organic Statute, had induced the Bulgarians to imagine that their interests were alone to be advanced by courting the counsels of their liberators, on whom—as they then thought—their fortunes entirely depended. So imbued were they at first with this idea, that they even ventured to think that they could brave the opinion of Europe, whose advice they had been led to distrust, and in whose assistance they then placed but little value.

All their efforts had been directed towards neutralizing certain provisions in the Statute which they considered encroached on their liberties, and, as the Organic Statute had conferred on the Governor-General an almost absolute control, they had lost no time, he said, in seeking to take as much advantage as possible of the sympathy which they knew Aleko Pasha entertained for them, fearing that his Excellency might any day be replaced by a Governor less friendly disposed, who might too eagerly avail himself of his prerogatives.

Secret Societies had consequently been formed, of which he owned he himself had been a member, and a secret policy pursued, which, however, he declared, had contained nothing really injurious. All this mystery, they now saw, had been productive of evil. At a moment when they were beginning to understand the true situation of affairs, and to fully comprehend that the interest taken in them by Russia was far from being disinterested, they had discovered that they had in the meanwhile incurred the disfavour of Europe. The reports which had been circulating abroad about the province were, he maintained, for the most part exaggerated.

Nevertheless, there was perhaps ground for complaint, and he for one was ready to admit it. A great change, however, had now taken place. The Secret Societies had been dissolved, and all the prominent men in the Government were, he assured me, impressed with the necessity of establishing order and general security throughout the province. As for the leaning the Bulgarians were supposed to have towards Russia, that was visibly diminishing. It was still strong among the masses, but the more enlightened were beginning to realize that a second occupation of the province by her troops would probably lead to their ultimate absorption by Russia. They knew very well what Panslavism meant, and were now fully awake to the dangers of sacrifices such as Russia was inclined to ask of them in return for the services she had rendered.

M. Consoloff then proceeded to inquire whether Europe would be willing under certain circumstances to grant them complete independence. The province, he said, was suffering much from the sense of insecurity and helplessness felt by all, and he compared its position to that of a body deprived of arms and legs, but gifted by nature with remarkable vigour, which was rendered powerless by its maimed condition.

As M. Consoloff is said to possess considerable influence among a certain class which has been styled the "advanced Bulgarians," and as he evidently expected me to give him some reply, I thought it advisable to refer to some of his arguments. In reply to his statement, that there was no opening for the energies of the population, I said that from what I had heard and seen it appeared to me, on the contrary, that the local requirements of the province presented a whole programme of action. The very insecurity of which he spoke was not traceable to external causes, but to internal ones. By his own showing, from the very first day that free institutions had been granted to the province up till quite lately agitation had been continual. Secret Societies had been formed, whose declared purpose it was to set at defiance the organic law which Europe had taken so much pains to elaborate. Nor was this all. Grave accusations had been brought against the Bulgarian population—which up to the present had not been satisfactorily refuted—namely, that, owing to its conduct towards the minorities in the province, the latter had not been permitted to enjoy the civil rights and privileges accorded to them by the Statute. I said

that the Bulgarians should not forget that besides the sympathy they had to win the respect of Europe, both of which would be forfeited if abuse was made of the power which their numerical superiority gave them. It was hardly to be expected that any organic laws, however skilfully drawn up, could at once fulfil all that might be required of them. Conciliation and good fellowship on the part of the different races was, therefore, doubly requisite, and it was surely, I added, in the interests of the Bulgarians themselves, in their position as the majority, to win by justice and impartiality the confidence of the Turkish population, whose presence in the province in prosperity and contentment would be a striking contrast to the acknowledged grievances of the Bulgarians under Ottoman rule, and a generous proof of their better capacity for government.

In reply, M. Consoloff observed that the Mussulmans were, on the whole, very well treated; and he assured me that the strictest orders had lately been issued enjoining the fullest observance of their rights and privileges. He acknowledged that good actions alone could command the good opinion of Europe, but he hoped that, if in time the Government showed themselves worthy of the confidence which had been placed in them, a deaf-ear would not be turned to their appeals.

I avoided giving an answer to this question, by again pointing out to him that the internal condition of the province presented sufficient scope for their immediate energies.

I would have been the more impressed with the moderation of M. Consoloff's remarks had I not already observed, in conversation with other Bulgarians, that their language in the presence of their compatriots is sometimes strangely at variance with the moderate views they have expressed only very shortly before when alone.

M. Consoloff, however, gave me the impression of being a plain-spoken man, and I am happy to inform your Lordship that I have learnt from two reliable sources that the stringent orders to which he referred with reference to the treatment of the Mussulman population have in reality been issued. I am also informed by the Greek Consul that the Administration have shown more conciliation of late towards the Greeks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 225.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 304.) *Philippopoli, July 3, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 294 of the 18th June, I am informed that the first instalment of the tribute due on the $\frac{10}{1880}$ from the Eastern Roumelian Government has not yet been paid to the Porte. The non-approval by the Sultan of the Provincial Budget for this year is, I am told, the excuse given.

The rumour which is current that the tribute has been mortgaged in advance may perhaps best account for the absence, as yet, of any urgent remonstrances on the subject on the part of the Ottoman Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 226.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 305.) *Philippopoli, July 3, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that a Commission consisting of a Bulgarian from here and a Turk named by the Porte has at last been appointed for the purpose of properly marking the southern boundary of this province. It starts early next week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 227.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 41.) *Bugakdéré, July 4, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the compte-rendu of the third sitting of the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 227.

Compte-rendu.—Séance No. 3, tenue le $\frac{14}{26}$ Juin, 1880 (18 Rédjeb, 1297), au Lycée Impérial de Galatz-Séraï à Constantinople.

Présidence de son Excellence ASSIM PACHA.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig, Secrétaire de l'Ambassade Impériale d'Allemagne à Constantinople.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
Le Baron de Kosjek, Conseiller de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale Apostolique à Constantinople.

Pour la France—
M. Aubaret, Consul-Général.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Lord E. Fitzmaurice, Membre du Parlement.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni, Premier Drogman de la Légation d'Italie à Constantinople.

Pour la Russie—
M. Hitrovo, Conseiller d'Etat Actuel, Consul-Général.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha, Vizir, Membre du Sénat.
Abro Effendi, Fonctionnaire de Premier Rang, Première Classe, Conseiller d'Etat.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure.

Le compte-rendu de la dernière séance, lu par M. Séon, est adopté.

Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice donne lecture de la déclaration suivante et prie ses collègues de s'y associer :—

"Les Commissaires, avant d'entamer toute discussion sur le Projet qui leur a été présenté, font leurs réserves sur la procédure suivie par la Sublime Porte, au sujet de l'élaboration du dit Projet, et sur la manière dont elle a interprété l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin."

A l'appui de sa déclaration, le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne rappelle les observations déjà faites par lui à la première séance de la Commission.

Tous les Commissaires, à l'exception de ceux de la Turquie, qui se réservent de répondre ultérieurement, adhèrent à la déclaration proposée par Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice.

Le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne fait ensuite la déclaration suivante et prie ses collègues de s'y rallier également :—

"La Commission, en abordant l'examen du Projet, se réserve de se prononcer ultérieurement si et jusqu'à quel point il est réellement applicable à toutes les provinces de la Turquie d'Europe."

Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice dit qu'il serait évidemment dangereux d'accepter la discussion d'une loi uniforme, destinée à toutes provinces de la Turquie d'Europe. Les différences qui existent entre la situation et les besoins des habitants de ces diverses provinces sont trop grandes pour ne pas en tenir compte. Aussi, le but de la déclaration ci-dessus est-il de réserver à MM. Commissaires une pleine liberté d'action, pour

qu'à la fin de la discussion du Projet de Réformes ils puissent désigner à quelles provinces ce projet est applicable, et y apporter les modifications qui lui paraîtront nécessaires pour les autres.

M. Hitrovo s'associe complètement, en principe et pour le fond de la question, à la déclaration proposée par le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne, ainsi qu'aux arguments dont il l'a appuyée. Le Commissaire de Russie voudrait seulement donner à la susdite déclaration plus de développement afin d'y marquer, au moins d'une façon générale, les motifs qui l'ont inspirée et que Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice a développés avec tant de précision.

M. Hitrovo propose donc le préambule suivant au texte présenté par le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne:—"En vertu de l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin, la Commission déclare que les lois qui lui sont soumises ne sauraient être examinées que dans leur application à des localités définies. En conséquence, &c."

Le Baron de Kosjek fait remarquer que cette déclaration est en conformité complète, non-seulement avec l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin, mais, en outre, avec les paroles mêmes de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan dans son Hatt du 9 courant, et dans lequel il est dit: "selon les aptitudes des populations."

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie voudrait seulement, dans le préambule proposé par son collègue de Russie à la déclaration de Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice, substituer aux mots "localités définies" ceux de "vilayets spécifiés."

Les Commissaires des Six Puissances adhèrent à cette déclaration ainsi amendée: —"En vertu de l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin, la Commission déclare que les lois qui lui sont soumises ne sauraient être examinées que dans leur application à des vilayets spécifiés. En conséquence, en abordant l'examen du Projet, elle se réserve de se prononcer ultérieurement si et jusqu'à quel point il est réellement applicable à toutes les provinces de la Turquie d'Europe."

S. E. Assim Pacha refuse de se rallier à cette déclaration. On ne peut, dit-il, élaborer un règlement spécial pour chaque vilayet, attendu que ce procédé serait contraire à l'identité des principes et d'organisation administrative, qui doivent régir des provinces placées sous l'autorité de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan et administrées directement par cette autorité.

Abro Effendi attire l'attention de ses collègues sur l'Article 24 du Projet de Réformes qui définit les attributions du Conseil Général, lesquelles répondent suffisamment aux besoins locaux.

Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice espère que MM. les Commissaires Ottomans voudront bien donner, sous peu, une réponse à la question qu'il leur a posée à la précédente séance relativement aux îles de l'Archipel.

Le Chevalier Vernoni émet le même vœu pour la question qu'il a posée à cette même séance, concernant Constantinople et sa banlieue.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha communiquera à la Commission l'avis de la Sublime Porte à ce sujet, aussitôt qu'il l'aura reçu.

Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice soulève la question des pétitions.

La Commission, sur l'avis émis par M. de Braunschweig, met cette question à l'ordre du jour de sa prochaine séance.

MM. les Commissaires Ottomans s'abstiennent.

La Commission, sur la proposition de Lord E. Fitzmaurice, décide que les amendements présentés par MM. les Commissaires et déposés sur le bureau seront imprimés par les soins de celui-ci.

M. Aubaret fait part à la Commission de ses impressions générales sur les 100 premiers Articles du projet de réformes, et les résume en divers amendements qui seront discutés en leur lieu et place.

Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice déclare s'associer à presque toutes les observations présentées par M. Aubaret. Le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne croit, cependant, de son devoir d'attirer spécialement la sérieuse attention de ses collègues sur l'Article 19 du Projet. Cet article, dit-il, qui détermine la situation financière des provinces, vis-à-vis du Trésor de l'Empire, a une importance capitale. Un financier célèbre a dit:—"Faites de bonnes finances, je vous ferai de la bonne politique." Or, c'est principalement au point de vue des finances, des ressources locales que les provinces de la Turquie d'Europe ont été le plus éprouvées. Personne n'ignore à quel terrible degré de misère en sont arrivées certaines parties de la Macédoine et de la Thrace. Grâce au système financier que ces provinces ont dû subir, leur situation économique a toujours été des plus tristes, mais, ces dernières années, elles ont atteint le plus complet degré d'appauvrissement.

Alors, comme aujourd'hui, l'épuisement des ressources avait la même cause

principale: l'écoulement des ressources du pays vers la capitale. L'opinion publique en Angleterre juge, en général, ainsi cette question. Au lieu de rester, au moins pour la plus grande partie, dans les provinces, d'y aider au développement de la richesse et de l'industrie locales, l'argent des vilayets va se perdre dans le trésor central, sans aucun profit pour les habitants des provinces.

C'est là qu'est le plus grand mal, c'est surtout à cet état de choses qu'il s'agit de remédier. Il est impossible d'améliorer la situation des vilayets, si on n'arrête pas cet écoulement des ressources provinciales vers Constantinople, qui épuise le pays.

Or, en l'examinant à ce point de vue, l'Article 19 du Projet de Loi est-il suffisant? Est-il seulement clair et précis? Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice regrette de se voir obligé de constater, non seulement que l'Article 19 est insuffisant, mais qu'il manque encore de clarté. Le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne ajoute que lorsque cet Article dit: "après prélèvement des frais de toutes les branches de l'Administration Locale, le dixième des revenus généraux des vilayets, exception faite des trois contributions indirectes réservées à la Sublime Porte, sera abandonné aux vilayets," qu'entend-on par toutes les branches de l'Administration Locale? Est-il question seulement des appointements des fonctionnaires, y compris le Vali et l'Administration Centrale du vilayet? Ou bien, les frais généraux des Administrations, outre les traitements des fonctionnaires, sont-ils aussi compris dans cette rubrique? Il est indispensable que le Gouvernement Ottoman explique d'une façon précise le sens exact qu'il donne à cette partie de l'Article 19.

Mais cette explication même ne suffira pas à rendre le dit Article acceptable.

On ne sait pas quelle a pu être l'idée qui a amené le Gouvernement Ottoman à proposer une pareille division des impôts. La Turquie connaît six espèces de Contributions Indirectes.

Il y a peu de temps, par un arrangement conclu entre la Sublime Porte et un Syndicat de banquiers de Galata, arrangement protesté par quelques Puissances, la perception de tous les six impôts indirects a été attribuée à ce Syndicat.

Or, nous voyons que dans l'Article 19 seulement des six impôts indirects restent réservés au Gouvernement Central. Ceci crée une complication. En effet, de quelle façon se partagera la perception de ces impôts? Peut-elle, pour les deux Contributions Indirectes abandonnées à la province, rester sous le contrôle du Syndicat prénommé? Le Gouvernement Ottoman a-t-il prévu ce cas?

D'un autre côté, il serait peut-être regrettable qu'en adoptant cet Article la Commission aidât le Gouvernement Ottoman à se dégager des engagements qu'il a pris vis-à-vis de ce Syndicat. L'arrangement qu'il a conclu avec le Syndicat a été, il est vrai, protesté. On ne peut néanmoins nier la bonne influence qu'il a exercé et qu'il exerce sur l'Administration Financière du pays. Si l'Article 19 fournissait au Gouvernement un prétexte plausible pour rompre cet arrangement, un pareil résultat ne pourrait guère réjouir que les ennemis des réformes.

Ainsi, à ce point de vue, l'adoption de l'Article 19 ne pourrait avoir que de mauvais résultats pour le Gouvernement Ottoman lui-même, car elle empêcherait l'exécution d'un contrat dont l'utilité pour ce Gouvernement, au sujet de la réforme, est incontestable.

D'un autre côté, peut-on dire que cet Article répond aux besoins des provinces et satisfait leurs justes désirs?

Ainsi que M. Aubaret, Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice pense que le dixième des revenus, laissé aux provinces par l'Article 19, serait probablement insuffisant. On ne peut toutefois décider cette question avant que les termes "frais de toutes les branches" aient été clairement expliqués.

Le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne ajoute que, par sa nature, l'Article 19 serait plus à sa place au Titre 4 du Projet de Loi. En général, les Articles qui font partie du 1er Chapitre sont rédigés d'une façon vague et diffuse. Ainsi, l'Article 84 n'est presque qu'une répétition de l'Article 24 du Projet. Les Articles 81, 82, et 83 pourraient facilement être fondus en un seul Article. Pour ce qui concerne la question du budget, si importante pour les provinces, il y a une lacune. Il n'est pas dit de quelle façon et dans quel terme le budget doit être sanctionné par le Gouvernement Central.

Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice constate ensuite que les paragraphes (*b*) et (*c*) de l'Article 24 sont vagues. Il vaudrait mieux, dit-il, adopter les termes de l'Article Budgétaire correspondant du Règlement Organique de la Roumélie Orientale rédigé ainsi qu'il suit: "Seront de la compétence de l'Assemblée les lois d'impôts."

L'Article 21 est insuffisant. Il pourrait être remplacé par l'Article 22 de Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale, dont la rédaction est beaucoup plus complète et ne laisse presque pas de marge aux différences d'interprétation.

A ce sujet, Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice fait remarquer qu'il y a un certain danger à conserver dans des provinces voisines des textes de loi différents sur des sujets identiques. De pareilles divergences, ajoute-t-il, produisent des jalousies et des complications qui offrent de graves inconvénients.

M. Hitrovo s'associe entièrement aux opinions exprimées par Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice et il se plaît à en constater l'entière justesse.

Le Baron de Kosjek déclare, de son côté, s'associer, en général, aux observations présentées par ses collègues de France et de la Grande Bretagne.

Le Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie a vainement cherché, dans le Projet de Loi présenté par la Sublime Porte à la Commission, les principes libéraux qui se retrouvent dans les deux Règlements Crétois et dont le Gouvernement Ottoman aurait dû s'inspirer conformément à l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin. Ceci est d'autant plus regrettable que l'adoption sincère de ces principes serait utile d'abord et avant tout à la Sublime Porte elle-même. Il n'y a, en effet, que l'introduction de réformes, basées sur ces principes, qui puissent mener à l'apaisement de l'Orient.

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie propose ensuite de passer à l'examen du Projet de Loi, Article par Article.

Abro Effendi déclare ne pas vouloir suivre pour le moment, l'argumentation de ses collègues. Il se borne à dire quelques mots à propos de l'Article 19; il est entendu, par prélèvement des frais de toutes les branches de l'Administration Locale, les appointements de tous les fonctionnaires, à partir du Gouverneur-Général jusqu'au plus petit employé, les dépenses afférentes à chaque Direction de l'Administration Locale, y compris celles de la police et de la gendarmerie. Le prélèvement opéré, le dixième des revenus généraux sera affecté au vilayet pour le service des travaux publics et des écoles.

Abro Effendi ajoute qu'en Roumélie Orientale, dont le Budget de 1880 est de £ E. 800,000 environ, la somme prélevée sur les revenus, pour le service des travaux publics et des écoles, représente les 15 pour cent de revenu net, tandis que, d'après l'Article 19 du Projet, c'est 10 pour cent de revenu net, mais après déduction des impôts réservés au Gouvernement Central et après prélèvement des dépenses locales, qui revient aux provinces. Abro Effendi dit encore que dans l'examen du Projet de Loi soumis à la Commission, le Règlement Crétois ne peut servir de base absolue à la discussion, par suite des particularités distinctives qu'offre l'Ile de Crète.

Le Baron de Kosjek déclare ne pouvoir aucunement accepter la dernière partie de l'observation faite par Abro Effendi, relativement aux Règlements Crétois. Les Signataires du Traité de Berlin ne pouvaient, dit-il, recommander à la Sublime Porte, comme base pour les réformes à introduire en Turquie, le Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale, ce Statut n'existait pas alors. Ils ont indiqué le Règlement Crétois de 1878. Conformément au Traité de Berlin, le travail que la Sublime Porte soumet actuellement à la Commission devait avoir pour base les principes des Règlements Crétois. Ces principes sont parfaitement clairs. On pourrait les résumer d'une façon générale, en disant qu'ils établissent une large participation de la population à l'Administration Locale, sur le pied d'une parfaite égalité et sans distinction de race et de religion. L'impression générale que M. le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie a rapportée de l'examen du dit Projet de Loi est que la Sublime Porte, au lieu de prendre pour base de son travail les Règlements Crétois, tout en excluant de ces derniers les parties inapplicables aux provinces du Continent, s'est simplement bornée à refaire une loi des vilayets sans tenir aucun compte des susdits Règlements. Elle a fait la règle de ce qui ne pouvait et ne devait être qu'une exception. Elle a mis de côté les Règlements en leur entier, au lieu d'en modifier ou d'en rejeter une petite partie.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha dit que plus d'un principe du Règlement de la Crète a été adopté, notamment en ce qui concerne la nomination pour cinq ans du Gouverneur-Général. En Crète, ajoute son Excellence, la question de la réorganisation était rendue infiniment plus facile par ce fait qu'il n'y a, dans l'île, que deux populations parlant la même langue. Dans la Turquie d'Europe, au contraire, on se trouve, quelquefois, dans une seule localité, en présence de cinq populations parlant des langues différentes. Entre autres exemples, son Excellence cite celui de la localité connue sous le nom de Karadja-Ova, dans le Vilayet de Salonique, habitée par des Musulmans qui ne parlent que le Bulgare.

Sur la proposition du Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne, son Altesse Assim Pacha demandera à la Sublime Porte un Tableau contenant les recettes et les dépenses du Vilayet de Salonique. Quant à Andrinople, cette province se trouvant depuis quelques années, par suite de la dernière guerre, dans une situation anormale, il ne peut être donné aucun chiffre, même approximatif.

Le Chevalier Vérnoni pense que la Sublime Porte peut fournir un Tableau des recettes et des dépenses de toutes les provinces pour les années 1874-75.

La Commission décide de passer à la discussion du Projet de Réformes, Article par Article.

Le Président donne lecture des Articles :—

Article 1.

Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice propose d'ajouter à cet Article la phrase suivante :—

"Toute loi, en contradiction avec la présente loi, est désormais abolie. Tout Iradé Impérial, qui serait contraire aux dispositions de cette loi, sera non avenu."

Sur la proposition d'*Abro Effendi*, le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne remet son Amendement à la fin de la discussion générale du Projet.

L'Art. 1 est adopté à l'unanimité.

Article 2.

En substituant aux mots "sans préjudice" les mots "sans distinction de race et de religion," l'Art. 2 est adopté à l'unanimité.

Article 3.

L'Art. 3 est adopté à l'unanimité.

Article 4.

M. Aubaret et *Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice* désirent le renvoi de l'examen des Articles 4, 5, 6, et 7 à la discussion du Titre 14.

Le Chevalier Vernoni propose de conserver, à sa place actuelle, la partie de l'Article 4 qui concerne les droits des habitants, ainsi que cela a été fait pour le Statut de la Roumélie Orientale.

La Commission, après un débat animé, renvoie à plus tard la discussion des Articles 4, 5, 6, et 7.

Avant de passer à l'examen de l'Article 8 du Projet de Loi, *Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice* fait remarquer à la Commission qu'il y a une lacune à cet endroit du Projet. Il y manque, dit-il, deux Articles qui se trouvent, à cette place, dans le Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale. Ce sont les Articles 4 et 5, relatifs aux Circassiens et aux Bachi-Bozouks.

Abro Effendi propose de remettre à plus tard l'examen de cette question.

La Commission décide de mettre l'examen de cette question à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance.

Le Chevalier Vernoni propose d'ajouter au Titre du Chapitre Ier du Projet de Loi les mots : "Et droits publics de la province," de manière à ce que le titre complet de ce chapitre soit : "Des droits généraux des habitants et des droits publics de la province."

Article 8.

L'Article 8 est supprimé à l'unanimité.

Article 9.

La Commission décide, à l'unanimité, de remplacer l'Article 9 par l'Article 35 du Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale.

Article 10.

Six Commissaires trouvant que l'Article 10 du Projet de Loi est superflu, puisque l'Article 11 en contient les dispositions, votent la suppression de l'Article 10.

Les Délégués Ottomans votent contre la suppression de cet article qui, selon leur opinion, garantit le contribuable contre une taxation dépassant la proportion de ses facultés et de sa fortune.

Articles 11, 12, 13, *et* 14.

Les Articles 11, 12, 13, et 14 sont adoptés à l'unanimité.

Article 15.

M. Aubaret propose, pour l'Article 15, la rédaction suivante :—

"L'enseignement est libre. Il sera placé sous la haute surveillance de l'autorité. Cette surveillance sera, sans distinction, exercée sur toutes les écoles."

La Commission adopte, à l'unanimité, la rédaction proposée par le Commissaire de France.

Article 16.

L'Article 16 est supprimé, à l'unanimité.

Article 17.

L'Article 17 est adopté, à l'unanimité.

Article 18.

M. Aubaret propose la suppression des mots : "tels que écoles, hôpitaux et fermes modèles."

L'Article 18 est adopté, à l'unanimité, avec l'amendement proposé par le Commissaire de France.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée au Mercredi 30 Juin :—

1. La continuation de la discussion des 100 articles.
2. La question des pétitions.
3. La discussion de la proposition du Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne, relative à l'introduction, dans le Projet de Loi, des Articles 4 et 5 du Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale.

La séance est levée à 5 heures et demie.

(Signé) ASSIM.
ABRO.
V. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KOSJEK.
AUBARET.
ED. FITZMAURICE.
VERNONI.
HITROVO.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) SION.
C. CARTWRIGHT.
V. DE GRITZESKO.
M. RECHID.

No. 228.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 42.)
Buyukdéré, July 4, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a memorandum on the reforms necessary in European Turkey, by Wassa Effendi, the Christian Mustéchar of Adrianople. It has been sent to me by the author.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 228.

Précis of Wassa Effendi's Scheme for Reform in Turkey.

THE priesthood should be debarred from taking part in the Provincial Councils, as tending to maintain a fanatical spirit.

Tax collectors should be elected by the tax-paying community, and be paid by the State.

The corvée should be abolished, and the system proposed by the Adrianople Local Commission adopted, for keeping up public works ("ponts et chaussées").

The revenues of the vilayets should be paid into the local branch of the Ottoman Bank.

The tithes should be levied after the plan proposed by the Vilayet of Adrianople, the present system entailing a most extensive and costly organization, which is open to the greatest abuse.

The gendarmerie should be considered as an integral part of the army; it should be properly paid and organized on the same system throughout the Empire, the corps in each vilayet consisting mostly of men of the country, without regard to race or religion, and officered for a time by foreigners.

The Courts of Justice require to be thoroughly reformed. A study of the law is the first thing necessary, but, meanwhile, the number of Courts should be reduced and the least incompetent Judges selected, who should be properly paid and punished if they neglect their duties, by the Vali, who should have power to obtain their dismissal. Each commune should have a Stipendiary Magistrate (Juge de Paix), who, as well as the Judges, should be bound to know the language of the district.

The number of "Substituts des Procureurs-Généraux" should be reduced; the Provincial Courts of Appeal should be replaced by Courts of First Instance for civil and criminal cases united under one President.

The post of Inspector of Tribunals should be abolished, and simple "Directeurs de la Justice" appointed.

The Judges of the Tribunals of Commerce must be paid by the State. The duties of the Cadi must be confined to matters connected with the Chéri, their religious character excluding them, as already stated, from any other legal or political office.

The Valis require to be selected with great care; they should be invested with extensive powers, and named for five years. Every Vali, and head official below him, should be assisted by a Mustéchar and Monavin of the opposite faith, which would secure to the non-Mussulman population a voice in public affairs.

The system of permanent Commissions deputed by the General Assembly to superintend affairs is a vicious one, as it absorbs all the power and destroys responsibility. The duties could be properly carried out by the Administrative Council of the Vilayet, composed of the heads of the different Departments, who might be *ex officio* members of the Assembly.

The surplus revenues of the Evcaf (Church property), which might be enormously increased if properly administered, should be devoted to the maintenance of primary and other schools, to be established in every district.

The Department of Commerce and Agriculture should be separated from that of Public Works, and be confided to specialists.

These recommendations conclude with a Table, showing the wasteful organization now existing in the Vilayet of Adrianople for the collection of tithes, whereas the staff now employed costs 31,400 piastres. The work might be done for 12,763 piastres, an expenditure which might be still further reduced if the functions of the experts were entrusted to the village Councils of Anciens, who should receive a percentage of 20 paras per kilé.

No. 229.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 43.)
Buyukdére, July 5, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a paper handed to me by the Bulgarian Exarch, during a visit I paid to him on the 24th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 229.

Petition.

DEPUIS la conclusion du Traité de Berlin tout le monde attendait avec impatience la réorganisation des autres provinces de la Turquie d'Europe par les

réformes prescrites dans l'Article XXIII du dit Traité; mais jusqu'à présent, malheureusement, rien n'a été fait. Ce n'est que depuis une dixaine de jours qu'on a commencé à parler de nouveau de réformes et à faire quelque chose dans notre province.

Les cazas sont subdivisés en cantons. D'après cette réforme le Caza de Drama est divisé en neuf cantons, dont l'un est celui de Prossotchiau, qui se compose de six villages d'environ 1,150 maisons, dont 630 Musulmanes, 430 Bulgares, 55 Valaques, et 35 Grecomanes (Bulgares reconnaissant le Patriarchat).

Chaque canton doit être gouverné par un Mudir, un Mouavin, six Aazas (membres du Conseil), et un Secrétaire.

Tous les habitants de notre caza, surtout les Bulgares, reçurent ces réformes les bras ouverts, croyant qu'avec l'application de ces réformes le sort de la population Chrétienne sera amélioré. Mais helas! Les Bulgares sont plus que jamais indignés. La formation des membres du Conseil de notre canton se compose d'un Mudir, d'un Mouavin, de deux Aazas, tous Musulman, et de quatre Chrétiens, Valaques, et Grecomans, sans aucun égard des droits et des intérêts des habitants Bulgares. Tout cela a été fait par ordre du Mutessarif avec le concours de l'Evêque Grec de Drama.

Les habitants Bulgares ont protesté devant le Mutessarif, contre la formation du dit Conseil. Le Mutessarif leur a répondu qu'il ne reconnaît pas de nationalité Bulgare dans son sandjak et que tous les Chrétiens sont Grecs; ainsi il ne peut pas leur permettre d'avoir de représentants nationaux dans le Medjliss. Quant aux Valaques et Grecomans Bulgares, ils prêchent que celui qui ne reconnaît pas l'Evêque Grec n'a le droit d'occuper une fonction publique, car il est excommunié.

Il y a vingt ans, les habitants Bulgares de la Macédoine n'ont pas été si opprimés par le Gouvernement Ottoman, qu'aujourd'hui par le clergé Grec.

Les habitants Bulgares de Prossotchian, ayant appris par les journaux la réunion des membres de la Commission Européenne pour l'application des réformes, ont cru de leur devoir de porter à la connaissance de l'honorable Commission ce qui précède, la suppliant en même temps de leur assurer, d'après l'Article LXII du Traité de Berlin, la liberté religieuse et de reconnaître à l'Exarchat le droit d'envoyer des Evêques en Macédoine qui pourront représenter l'élément Bulgare devant les autorités locales et défendre leurs intérêts.

Notre seule espérence est dans l'esprit équitable et vraiment libéral de l'honorable Commission. Si nos prières ne seront pas exaucées, alors, malheur à nous! Malheur disons-nous, car nous serons de nouveau exposés à la disposition de nos plus grands ennemis, les Evêques Grecs, qui, aidés ouvertement par le Gouvernement, emploient tous les moyens possibles pour exterminer la nation Bulgare de la Macédoine; car abandonné à la merci des Evêques Grecs et privé de tout droit politique et religieux, il sera persécuté, opprimé, et compromis devant le Gouvernement, et à la fin forcé d'abandonner son foyer et de chercher un asile ailleurs.

Le succès des futures réformes dépendra de l'application de l'Article LXII du Traité de Berlin. Pour éviter toute complication future, nous supplions l'honorable Commission d'assurer, par un Article ajouté au Statut Organique, la liberté religieuse.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Prossotchian, Caza de Drama, le $\frac{3}{15}$ Juin, 1880.

No. 230.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 45.) *Buyukdéré, July* 5, 1880.

My Lord,

THE *compte-rendu* of the third meeting (pp. 2 and 3) contains the resolution which, on my motion, the Commission adopted in regard to the limits of the application of the Projet de Loi. Most of the Commissioners would personally have preferred to exclude the Albanian vilayets by name; but M. Aubaret, the French Commissioner, opposed this course very strongly, and his colleagues, in order to preserve the union which has hitherto subsisted among them, determined to yield the point and to adopt the motion appearing on the *compte-rendu*, which he declared himself willing to accept.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 231.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 104.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 5, 1880.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 83 of the 17th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Photiades Bey is at present at Constantinople with a view to inducing the Porte to put into execution the decisions come to by the last General Assembly of the Cretans, and that I have had frequent opportunities of conversing with him.

I have informed his Excellency that I had been instructed to support him in any representation he might make to the Porte on this subject, but he has given me to understand that for the present there is no need for intervention on my part. He has stated, however, that should such a necessity arise, he will not fail to appeal to me for my support.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 232.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 106.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 5, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship a memorandum by Mr. Consul Sandwith, which he has drawn up at my request, showing the working of the Cretan Organic Law of 1868, as modified by the Imperial Firman of 1878. I send this document in original, and should feel obliged if your Lordship would cause me to be furnished with two printed copies of it for the archives of this Embassy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 232.

Memorandum showing the working of the Cretan Organic Law of 1868, *as modified by the Imperial Firman of* 1878.

THE main grievance of the Christian Cretans before the granting in 1868 of the Règlement Organique, and the source indeed of most of the abuses of which they complained, was the preponderance of Mussulman influence in the general administration of the island. If redress were sought at Constantinople either for judicial or administrative abuses, all the avenues to influence were found to be jealously guarded, and disappointment was the result. The object of the Règlement was to remedy this state of things by the introduction of a system of representation which should call into existence a local Parliament, enlarge that already existing in the Administrative Councils, and extend also to the Courts of Law. The new Charter might have worked well had its execution been intrusted to honest and impartial officials, desirous of carrying it out in a liberal spirit. But the wording of the Règlement was often loosely expressed, and the Valis successively sent to administer the island were, as I have reason to know, encouraged to infringe its provisions, so that the privileges conferred on the Christians were soon found to be illusory.

I propose to consider (1) how it came to pass that the Règlement of 1868 failed to create a system of government acceptable to the Christians; (2) to cite the Articles of the Firman of 1878 introduced to remedy the evils complained of; and (3) to point out in what respects some of these appear to be defective. In doing so it will be convenient to consider (1) the administrative machinery of government; (2) the system of popular representation by a local Parliament; (3) the judicial system; (4) the gendarmerie; and (5) the financial system.

1. By the Règlement of 1868 it was provided that the island should be divided for administrative purposes into 4 sandjaks, 2 of which should be governed by Mussulman and 2 by Christian Mutessarifs, chosen by the Porte. These were further sub-divided into 13 cazas governed by Kaïmakams, also chosen by the Porte, and taken, as occasion required ("selon le besoin"), from the Mussulman and Christian functionaries of the Imperial Government.

Though the Kaimakams were to be appointed by the Porte, their choice was left to the Vali, who named 7 Mussulmans and 4 Christians to those posts. But the principle which guided the Vali in the choice of the latter was that of giving the preference to those who had acted as spies and informers in the insurrection just suppressed; and indeed in the distribution of posts allotted to Christians the same preference was shown for this obnoxious class of persons, so that the new system stood no chance of being favourably viewed by the Christian majority.

To the Vali were associated a Mussulman and a Christian Councillor, without executive authority, whom he was expected to consult on all important occasions, on the former devolving the additional duty of representing him during his absence. The person named to that post was the richest and most influential landed proprietor in Crete, and he acquired by degrees, with the aid of a clique of unscrupulous Mussulmans, a preponderating influence in the Government. Several Christians in succession held the post of Christian Councillor, but whenever they showed any independence of character they were got rid of, until at last that functionary became a mere tool of his Mussulman colleague.

It was further provided that to each Mutessarif and Kaimakam should be joined a Mouvin (Assistant) of a different religion from his chief. These functionaries had no definite duties to perform beyond acting for the Governor during his absence, and their presence served rather to foment intrigues than to contribute to the efficiency of the Government.

To the Vali, Mutessarifs, and Kaimakams were joined Administrative Councils, whose advice they were bound to seek in the ordinary details of administration. The Vali's Council consisted of the two Councillors above referred to, the Defterdar, the Mufti, the Greek Archbishop, the two Directors of Correspondence, and six elected members, three of either creed. The Councils of the Mutessarifs and Kaimakams were similarly composed. Experience proved that the presence of the Christian members did not furnish a sufficient guarantee that the interests of their community would be attended to, all the Mussulman members, both *ex officio* and elected, being far more influential than their colleagues. In fact, the ascendency always enjoyed by the Mussulmans was found to be no jot diminished by the new organization; the richest among them took care to keep up friendly relations with powerful patrons in the Palace, by whose means they were generally able to turn out an obnoxious Vali or Mutessarif; and the latter, dreading their power, were for the most part content to retain their posts at the expense of their independence of character. In each of the three maritime towns of Crete the leading Mahommedans were associated with some monastic brotherhood directed by dervishes, which were affiliated with similar organizations throughout the Empire. Within the island itself these societies kept up a constant correspondence with each other, holding weekly meetings to discuss political events and local topics, and as they acted in unison, they brought considerable influence to bear on the Administration.

Turning now to the Sultan's Firman promulgated after the close of the last insurrection, and given at p. 71 in the Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Crete ("Turkey No. 3, 1879"), it will be found that several Articles therein were directed against some of the administrative abuses above pointed out.

Although in that Firman there is no stipulation to the effect that the Vali should be a Christian, an informal undertaking was entered into on this subject, and I was authorized, when acting as mediator between the insurgent delegates and the Turkish Commissioner, to promise the former that the first Governor-General at least should be a Christian, appointed for a period of five years, and it is certain that the Christian islanders will never again submit to be governed by a Mussulman. The Christians attached a capital importance to this point, being convinced by experience that no Mussulman Vali, ignorant as he generally was of the Greek language, could shake himself free from the local prejudices to which he was inevitably exposed.

Article 5 provides that the Christian Kaimakams shall be more numerous than the Mussulman.

Article 6 provides that in the Administrative Councils no employé of the Government (save the President) should have a seat, the members of which should consist exclusively of persons elected by the General Assembly, three of either creed.

The exclusion of official members from the Administrative Councils has given the death-blow to the paramount Mussulman influence formerly complained of. As at present constituted, these Councils have been on their trial a year and a half, and this short experience has sufficed to bring to light a capital defect. It has been found that the absence of special knowledge on the part of the members renders them indifferent advisers to the Vali, who, however, is bound to consult them on the most ordinary business of the vilayet, and to be guided by the opinion of the majority. The more

enlightened Cretans, who have been studying the Organic Statute for Eastern Roumelia, seem in favour of borrowing therefrom the plan of making the Council consist of Chiefs of Departments; but the General Assembly will be jealous of parting with the right of election, and it is difficult to see how the retention of that right can be reconciled with the Roumelian system.

2. Reverting to the Règlement Organique of 1868, it was there provided that a Representative Assembly should meet every year for forty days, each electoral district returning 4 members, 2 of other community, the Caza of Sphakia alone, where no Mussulmans reside, returning 4 Christians. The General Assembly thus consisted of 42 Christians and 38 Mussulmans, and it was competent to discuss matters of public utility, such as the creation of roads, the formation of banks, matters connected with industry, commerce, and agriculture, and the means for the spread of education. After the close of the Assembly their decisions were to be submitted to the Porte, and could become law only by virtue of an Iradé.

To the Assembly was also intrusted the duty of electing the members of the Administrative Council and the Juges of the Court of Appeal. The public were not admitted to its sittings.

The privilege, such as it was, granted to the Assembly of discussing the matters above enumerated, was jealously restricted by the Vali, who sat as President. When recommendations were made or abuses pointed out, they were inscribed in the Minutes of Proceedings, which at the end of the Session were forwarded to Constantinople, where they were unceremoniously shelved. Each Session was but a repetition of the preceding, the authorities at Constantinople plainly never intending to pay serious attention to the demands put forward by the Assembly. Sometimes a Session was abruptly closed, until at length the Cretans became convinced that Parliamentary representation was a delusion.

Referring again to the Firman of 1878, it will be found that the Christians were successful in wresting from the Porte the concession of the principle of representation according to numbers. By Article 3 it is enacted that the General Assembly shall consist of 80 members as before, but instead of 42 being Christians and 38 Mussulmans, the numbers are fixed at 49 and 31 respectively. Care was taken that Mussulman minorities should be represented in every caza, otherwise, were each community represented according to its aggregate numbers, there would have been but 21 Mussulmans to 59 Christians, the population of the island being supposed to consist of 70,000 of the former and 200,000 of the latter. Article 4 greatly enlarges the powers of the Assembly, by granting them the right of making a Code of Civil and Criminal Procedure, and of modifying or supplying defects in the existing Règlement, the exercise of the last privilege being restricted to the necessity of obtaining the suffrages of two-thirds of the Assembly. The Porte reserved to itself the right of veto on any measure. The Assembly has largely availed itself of the extensive privileges thus accorded, but after the dissolution of the two Assemblies held since the Firman became law, it has been found necessary for the Vali on both occasions to visit Constantinople in order to obtain the Imperial sanction for the measures voted. In regard to this point, too, the Cretans intend to demand that if no answer to a Bill passed by the Assembly be returned within two months, it shall be considered as sanctioned, thus again borrowing from the Eastern Roumelian Statute.

It is worthy of remark that all the more important measures have been passed by the Assembly in spite of the opposition of the Mussulman minority. Their opposition may be attributed partly to a fear of change, and partly to a dislike of reforms when introduced by Christians. Hitherto the Christian majority has shown no disposition to pass measures bearing unjustly on their Mussulman fellow-countrymen, but they have been keen in the discovery of abuses that had crept in during the ascendency of the latter, having, *e.g.*, insisted on the restitution to the local Treasury of certain tithes payable to some Mussulman families, and on the withdrawal of their salaries from the Cadis, who no longer form part of the judicial system. They are now prepared to demand that Vacouf lands should not be exempted from the payment of tithes, thus placing this species of property on the same footing as monastery lands, to which in its uses it is in many respects analogous. In thus searching out abuses the Cretan Assembly is fulfilling one of the most useful functions of a representative body, but it can well be understood that in so acting it has not reconciled the Mahommedan minority to the principle of equal representation. The sittings are now public.

3. I now come to a consideration of the judicial organization established in Crete. The original Charter of 1868 created a system, a novel feature in which consisted in the recognition of the principle of popular representation. At the seat of Government and at the head-quarters of the four Mutessarifs were established Courts of First Instance, composed of a President, appointed by the Porte, and of four Judges, two of either faith,

elected by the people. Minor Courts formed on the same principle were set up in each caza, while a Court of Appeal sat at Canea, the capital of the island, the four elected members of which were chosen by the General Assembly. It is well known that Caratheodory Pasha was the author of this system, which he was led to adopt, I am told, by the consideration that, as hardly any lawyers existed in Crete, the Porte would by this system be giving the inhabitants a proof of its impartiality, and if attended with failure, they could only throw the blame on themselves. Experience soon showed that, both in civil and criminal suits brought before these Courts, the Judges of each creed espoused the cause of their co-religionists, so that the decision practically lay with the Presidents, who were too often ignorant, incapable men, and swayed by the same passions as the Judges over whom they presided. The choice of Presidents resting with the Vali, though nominally with the Porte), and the Vali being influenced, as explained in the beginning of this memorandum, by a clique of unscrupulous men enjoying the confidence of the Mussulman Counsellor, Christian Judges began gradually to be supplanted by Mussulmans, until in 1875 only one out of the seventeen Courts of Law was presided over by a Christian Judge, justice being thus practically denied to the majority of the inhabitants. Another cause of complaint arose from the practice of the Mussulman Judges to carry on discussions and to interrogate witnesses in Turkish, a language unknown to the Christians, while Greek was equally known to both. There were frequent complaints, too, of the interference of the Executive with the course of justice, and it was by no means an uncommon practice, when it was desired to evade the operation of a law or the execution of a sentence, to procure a Ministerial Order from Constantinople arbitrarily setting it aside.

The Firman of 1878 provides remedies for these abuses, as will be seen by a reference to the following Articles.

Article 7 separates the judicial power from the Executive, and gives the Assembly the power of submitting for the approbation of the Sultan a project for reorganizing the Tribunals.

Article 9 declares that the Greek language shall be exclusively used at the deliberations of the Courts and of the General Assembly.

Article 16 decrees that if Ministerial Orders are transmitted contrary to law, to the independence of the Tribunals, or to the Organic Règlement, they shall not be executed.

In accordance with the power conferred on the General Assembly by Article 7 quoted above, that body at its next Session (in 1879) somewhat simplified the judicial machinery of the island by substituting in the cazas "Juges de Paix," assisted by two elective Judges, for the old Courts consisting of five members, while at the Courts of First Instance in the sandjaks Procureurs were appointed, and a Procureur-Général at the Court of Appeal. The new functionaries are appointed by the Vali, and preference is to be given to such Judges and Procureurs as are furnished with a legal diploma, or, failing that, are able to satisfy of their competency a Local Board of Examiners constituted *ad hoc*. It has been found possible to secure Christians fulfilling these conditions, as several Cretans hold diplomas from the University of Athens, but not a single Mussulman could show a diploma, and only one passed the local examination. The Vali, in order to avoid the appearance of an undue leaning towards the Christians, has thought it advisable to overlook the shortcomings of the Mussulmans, and has distributed the new judicial appointments pretty equally between the two communities. The General Assembly at this year's Session voted a liberal scale of pay to the superior judicial authorities, allotting the President of the Court of Appeal a salary of 460*l.* a-year, and the Procureur-Général 280*l.*; and it gave an additional grant to the Vali enabling him to double those amounts in case he is able to induce foreign lawyers to accept the posts, which, as yet, are only provisionally occupied.

The steps taken by the Assembly and the Vali to secure a purer practice in the judicial department have not been entirely without result. The presence of more competent Judges attracted from other parts of Turkey and Greece by higher rates of pay has stimulated the activity of the Courts, but the new Judges complain of the sectarian spirit of the elected Judges, which, by blinding their judgment, robs their co-operation of any value. Some instances have latterly occurred in which the jurors, to whom it has been suggested the elected Judges may fitly be compared, have joined the President of the Court in condemning their own co-religionists, but the general tendency continues as before. One evil, that of the unauthorized interference of the executive authorities, has entirely ceased; the wholesome supervision of the Procureurs now acting as a check on the conduct of the Judges.

The last act of the General Assembly was to draw up, under the guidance of an experienced Greek lawyer, a draft Code of Civil and Criminal Procedure, as authorized by

Article 4 of the Firman. This Code has not yet received the Imperial sanction, but I am informed by the Vali, Photiades Pasha, that it will not be long withheld, and that no material modifications will be introduced therein.

4. Under the system established in 1868, three-fourths of the gendarmerie in Crete consisted of Albanian Mussulmans, and of the other fourth the greater part were Cretan Mussulmans. The Christians were shy of serving in the corps, because it was almost exclusively officered by Mussulmans. It must in justice be stated that the Albanian police gave the inhabitants little cause for complaint, enduring with wonderful patience the hardships of a service which was always left more than a year unpaid. Article 12 of the Firman makes the provision that "natives, whether Mussulman or Christian, will be accepted for service in the gendarmerie, and that recourse will not be had to other inhabitants of the Empire except in the event of an insufficiency of native candidates."

In consequence of this stipulation the Albanians have been forced to leave the service, and the authorities have been gradually replacing them by native Cretans, three out of the five battalions of which the new corps consists being commanded by Christians. Under the changed conditions of service the Christians have shown no repugnance to enlist, the composition of the gendarmerie now fairly representing the two religious sections of the population. Colonel Allix, an English officer in the service of the Porte, was useful in bringing the corps into something like order, and it is likely to prove an effective force when once the first condition of success is observed, viz., the punctual payment of wages. The increased revenue which is now looked for will allow of this being done, and it will then be possible to insist on a further reform which recent experience has proved necessary. The men serving for the most part in the cazas where they were enrolled, it not unfrequently happens that they connive at the escape of prisoners, or are remiss in the apprehension of offenders connected by the ties of kindred. The only remedy for this evil is to oblige them to serve away from their homes, which they are frequently willing to do if assured of regular pay.

5. By Article 13 of the recent Firman a separation is made between local and Imperial expenditure, the former including everything except that required for the maintenance of the army and navy. Out of the revenue of the island the Porte reserves to itself the customs duties and the indirect taxes generally, which amount to about 33,000*l.* a-year, a sum far from sufficient to meet the cost of the 4,000 troops forming the usual garrison of the island, without taking into account the squadron stationed in the Bay of Suda.

Another clause in Article 13 provides that "after the cost of the Local Administration has been deducted from the remainder of the revenue, the surplus shall be divided into equal parts between the Imperial Exchequer and works of public utility." This condition is likely to become a subject of future dispute between the Porte and its Cretan subjects, because the latter think that in yielding the indirect taxes to the Central Government they have sacrificed quite enough, and they may be expected to resort to every subterfuge to avoid further payment. There is, I believe, no part of the Ottoman dominions so lightly taxed as Crete, there being neither verghi nor bedel askerié (tax in lieu of military service), while the sheep tax is only 9 paras (less than a halfpenny) a-head, the rate in other parts of Turkey being usually 3 and 4 piastres.

The Porte accords to the Assembly the right of examining whether the receipts and expenses have been applied according to the provisions of the Budget for the year, and the Assembly has not failed to avail itself fully of the right.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Buyukdéré, June 30, 1880.

No. 233.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 109.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 5, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of a despatch, and its inclosures, from Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney respecting Captain Sale's visit to Janina.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 233.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Goschen.

Prevesa, June 26, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that Captain Sale and Lieutenant Caillard arrived at Janina on the 18th instant.

In reporting to me the above Mr. Kypriotis adds that as soon as the above two gentlemen had arrived at Corfu, the news spread at Janina that they were proceeding thither for the purpose of tracing the new line of boundary, which caused a great sensation, and the Christians, holding a meeting in consequence, resolved to receive them with due honours, and also to make a demonstration. This resolution was communicated to all the villages through which Captain Sale and Lieutenant Caillard had to pass. However, following the indirect advice of Mr. Kypriotis, they abandoned their intention of making a demonstration, and the welcome given to the above two gentlemenwas therefore quiet and orderly.

I here beg leave to inclose translations of two Confidential letters from Mr. Kypriotis relating to the arrival at Janina of Captain Sale and Lieutenant Caillard, and to the intentions of the Albanians.

Four mountain guns, I am told, have been dispatched from Arta to the Turkish station at Anino.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 233.

Mr. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)
(Confidential.)

Janina, June 21, 1880.

Sir,

I AM informed that M. Loudos, the Greek Consul here, has within the last few days received a telegram in cypher from Athens instructing him to dissuade the Christians from expressing freely their sentiments to the English Envoys (meaning Captain Sale and Lieutenant Caillard).

I am just this moment informed that should any portion of Epirus be ceded to Greece the Albanians intend asking for independence and an Italian Prince.

I am, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 233.

Mr. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)
(Confidential.)

Janina, June 21, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that the local authorities having reported to Constantinople the arrival here of the English engineers, and soliciting instructions, the central authorities replied that the mission of the above Englishmen is still unknown; that it is their duty to treat them kindly, but at the same time watch their movements, and keep them informed of everything.

On the other hand, the Albanians reported the same to Vessel Bey Drino at Constantinople, who advised them to telegraph to the Great Powers that they will resist to the last the cession of any portion of Epirus to Greece.

The Isams again pray the Italian Government to receive and maintain their families, so as to be free to defend their fatherland.

The above might be mere threats, still they are true.

I am, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

No. 234.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 112.)

My Lord,

Therapia, July 5, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Brophy on the subjects of renewed activity of the Gymnastic Societies and of brigandage on the Eastern Roumelian frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 234.

Consul Brophy to Mr. Goschen.

Bourgas, July 1, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that orders have been issued by the Secret Committees to all the Gymnastic Clubs of this department, enjoining every male Bulgar between the ages of 18 and 30 to attend drill at least twice a week. The leading members of these associations speak openly enough of the intention to proclaim (on the 26th July, o.s., 7th August, n.s.) the union of Eastern Roumelia with Bulgaria; they seem to count upon armed assistance from the Principality and on a possible outbreak of hostilities between Turkey and Greece.

Should they carry out these intentions, there is no force now within this province which would have the power, even if it had the wish, to prevent such an union being, at least nominally, effected.

As there have lately been exaggerated rumours of Turkish brigandage on the Eastern Roumelian frontiers, I beg to give your Excellency the following exhaustive statistics of such outlaws as are now within the northern limits of this department:—

With Pehlivan, 55 men, all mounted; these are from the Principality, and their houses have been burnt and their families taken prisoner and interned; with Baldji Eumer, 20 to 25 men; with Ibrahim Kehaya, 15 men; with Djin Oglou Yussuf, 10 men; in all, 100 to 105.

Being now confined to a long but narrow strip of territory on this side of the Bulgarian frontier, they are naturally obliged to extort provisions from the neighbouring villages, all of which are Mussulman; I have not heard of their committing any robbery or outrage upon Bulgarians, but the Turks upon whom they live complain bitterly of their exactions, and have lately petitioned the Prefect of Bourgas for arms to defend themselves.

The Prefect informs me that he intends, after the return of the Balkan Commission, to march against these bands with the militia and a couple of hundred Turkish volunteers; the positions in the mountains of the Karnabad district, where they generally stay, are however so strong that even an overwhelming force might suffer very serious loss at the hands of desperate men, whilst the supply of food for the attacking party (even though paid for at current rates) will fall very hardly upon the villagers.

I am, however, convinced that at least four-fifths of these men (who have no political action, and are rather "fuorusciti" or "banditi" than brigands in the ordinary sense of the term), would gladly lay down their arms if they were assured of being conveyed in safety, with their families, to any part of Turkey proper; but I question whether they would have the required confidence in the promises, written or verbal, of the local authorities unless endorsed by the presence of some foreign Consul or of a Turkish Commissioner sent *ad hoc*.

If some such arrangement were (as I believe it might be) successfully carried out it would have the immense advantage of driving from this part of the province, and without bloodshed, the bugbear, more imaginary than real, of Turkish revolt, as well as of relieving the neighbouring villagers from the requisitions made upon them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

No. 235.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 116.) *Therapia, July* 6, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the instructions I have addressed to Colonel Wilson with regard to his mission of inquiry into the condition of the Mussulman and Greek populations in Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 235.

Mr. Goschen to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

Therapia, June 30, 1880.

Sir,

THE reports which have been furnished to Her Majesty's Government from Eastern Roumelia have raised the question whether an organized system of persecution of the Mussulman and Greek populations is carried on in the province, and whether the acts of violence and oppression complained of are committed with the connivance, if not under the direct influence of, some of the leading persons in the country.

Her Majesty's Government are anxious to obtain as accurate and reliable information as possible as to the real state of affairs in the province by means of inquiry conducted on the spot in the various localities where the system complained of is alleged to exist.

I have accordingly to request you to proceed to Philippopoli, at your earliest convenience, and there to place yourself in communication with Mr. Stephen, Her Majesty's Acting Consul-General at that place, who will be instructed to submit for your information the reports which have been furnished by Mr. Michell on these matters.

You will then be able to form an opinion as to the districts which it may be necessary you should visit in order to obtain the materials for a report on the condition of the country.

I wish also to draw your special attention to the reports which have been furnished by Her Majesty's Consul at Bourgas upon the state of the country within his Consular jurisdiction, and I request that you will furnish me with a full account of the condition of that district. Similar instructions to those addressed to Mr. Stephen have also been given to Mr. Consul Brophy, and the despatches addressed to both these officers are forwarded herewith under flying seal to your care.

You will conduct the inquiry quietly. Her Majesty's Government wish the investigation to be made with a view of satisfying themselves of the exact state of affairs, and to avoid the appearance of your mission being a political demonstration. Her Majesty's Government further desire that you should be enabled to obtain information from the most varied sources in order to increase your facilities for making a thoroughly impartial report. I have accordingly to request you to address yourself to the Agents of other foreign Governments in Eastern Roumelia, as well as to the British Agents, so as to obtain such additional information as they may be able to afford to you. By the time that you arrive at Philippopoli the Representatives of Austria-Hungary, France, and Italy will have received instructions to render you such assistance as they can properly afford you, in order to further the objects of your mission.

Mr. Block, the Assistant Interpreter to Her Majesty's Embassy, has been instructed to accompany you, and to place himself at your disposal for such time as you may require his services.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 236.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 118.) *Therapia, July* 6, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that I have received a visit from Aleko Pasha, Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, and had a long conversation with him.

I did not, however, feel at the close of our interview that I had derived much information from his Excellency, though we touched upon many of the topics which have been arresting public attention.

His Excellency denied that there was agitation in the province at present in connection with projects for union with Bulgaria. I put him pointed questions with regard to this alleged movement, because I had been told by a gentleman supposed to be thoroughly in the confidence of the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia, and who has steadily laboured in their cause from the first, that such agitation undoubtedly exists at the present moment, and that the more moderate men in the province are using their utmost efforts to keep it in check. His Excellency, however, would not admit anything of the kind. The most peaceful tone was prevailing everywhere, and Bulgarians and Turks were settling down, anxious to dismiss all subjects of political controversy.

I questioned his Excellency with reference to the drilling of the reserves, with regard to which Mr. Stephen has addressed your Lordship, the Bulgarians being drilled with arms and the Mussulmans having none.

Aleko Pasha explained how this was perfectly natural and unavoidable. The Turks, after their defeats, had thrown away or sold their arms; the Bulgarians had bought them. The Mussulmans who had returned to their homes were too poor to buy arms. Accordingly, when the reserves came to be drilled as required by a provision in the Organic Statute, the Bulgarian members of the reserve brought their own arms, and were drilled with them. The Mussulmans had none, and could accordingly not be drilled in the same way. The Government was too poor to supply the Turks with arms themselves, but would do so by degrees.

I questioned Aleko Pasha as to the provisions of the Organic Statute relating to the confirmation of the "Directors" and other high functionaries by the Sultan. I had understood that Directors had been long acting without that sanction.

His Excellency replied that he must have men of his own choice, and that it would be impossible for him to have men forced on him by the Sultan.

I pointed out that it was not a question of the Sultan making a choice instead, but of a simple veto.

His Excellency replied that this provision of the Organic Statute was impracticable. He considered the framers of the Statute had by this Article simply wished to render homage to the sovereign rights of the Sultan. It had not been intended that the choice of the Governor-General should be really hampered.

I call your Lordship's special attention to this point, as it is very important, in connection with the other Organic Statutes which are being drawn up.

At a further stage of the conversation I elicited from his Excellency that he considered himself a thorough Bulgarian, though it was true that, according to the Constitution of the province, he was the Representative of the Sultan, and though the functions of the Permanent Committee had been made specially strong and wide in order to protect the people against the expected tendencies of a Governor-General nominated by the Sultan, and assumed to represent him.

I suggested to his Excellency that he had not given the Permanent Committee much trouble in this respect, but I explained to him, both at this and at other points of our conversation, that, while I was anxious to understand the working of the Organic Statute, and while I showed the natural tendency of an English Member of Parliament to fasten on breaches of constitutional arrangements wherever they occur, he need not consider me as making at this moment official comments on his proceedings.

I took this precaution, as I do not know how far Her Majesty's Government wish to exercise any influence over the authorities in Eastern Roumelia with regard to adhering more closely to the Organic Statute.

Mr. Michell has called frequent attention to the way in which the Statute has been broken in every direction, but I do not think that your Lordship has instructed him to make official remonstrance.

Of course, the Organic Statute must be regarded as more or less experimental, and a deadlock might possibly ensue if its provisions were to be too severely pressed.

Aleko Pasha did not volunteer any remarks about the mission of Colonel Wilson. When I introduced the topic, his Excellency showed very considerable irritation at the step which had been taken. Using language almost identical with what the Russian Ambassador had used when we last discussed the question together, he said such a mission would weaken the new Government by discrediting it; it would excite passions which were settling down; it would arouse new hopes among the Mussulmans, and would greatly excite the Bulgarians. His Excellency then went almost as far as to say that he would

not, under the circumstances, be responsible for public order, and he "washed his hands of the consequences."

I pointed out to him that he was affording little proof of the authority and strength of his Government, if a new inquiry, quietly and unostentatiously conducted as it would be, was to be followed by such consequences; and that the Province of Eastern Roumelia, which had been created by the Powers which had signed the Treaty of Berlin, could certainly not consider itself so exempt from any responsibility towards those Powers for its conduct towards the minorities as to be able to protest against inquiry.

Meanwhile, it is an interesting fact that Colonel Wilson has written me a private letter since he arrived at Philippopoli, stating that, as far as he can judge, his visit to Eastern Roumelia is not unpleasing to the officials there, and that M. Christowitch, whom he had seen, had received him well.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 237.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 119. Confidential.) *Therapia, July* 6, 1880.
My Lord,

I TOOK the opportunity of my conversation with Abédine Pasha on the Albanian question referred to in my despatch No. 88, Very Confidential, of the 29th ultimo, to call his Excellency's special attention to the report of great atrocities committed in certain districts of North-eastern Albania, particulars of which I had received from Mr. St. John at Prisrend.

These atrocities include the pillage of houses, thefts of cattle, the violation of women, and torture in the way of lighting fires on men's stomachs as a means of torture for extorting hidden hoards of money. I specified the villages where these proceedings had taken place, and asked whether such a condition of things would be allowed to continue. His Excellency admitted that the country in that neighbourhood was in a very wild state, and admitted that it had always been so, that possibly more could be done by functionaries having influence over the savage population there than by men sent from Constantinople, but that at the same time he believed that the statements I had given were exaggerated. He could see at once that they were so, for no violation of women could have taken place. These North Albanians might certainly light fires on men's stomachs; he had heard of such things; they would cut off a man's feet or his hands, they would rob and pillage, but they would never violate women. North Albanians consider themselves disgraced for ever, and their families too, by this form of crime. His Excellency seemed, not unnaturally, troubled at the account which I read to him of the proceedings reported from Prisrend, but he conveyed the impression to my mind that he was not sanguine as to being able to bring about much improvement in those regions.

I have telegraphed to your Lordship that I have recalled Mr. St. John from Prisrend. From letters received, it appeared that his personal safety was not secured, and I thought that the risk involved was greater than would be justified by the advantages to be gained from his continuance at his post. I have received your Lordship's approval of this step.

Since my conversation with his Excellency, I have sent a written note to the Porte giving all the particulars and calling for immediate inquiry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 238.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 381.) *Vienna, July* 10, 1880.
My Lord,

IN addition to the authorization given by Count Dubsky, instructions have been sent from here to the Austro-Hungarian Consul in Eastern Roumelia to give Colonel Wilson any information they possessed to assist him in carrying out his inquiry into the position of the Mussulmans in that province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 239.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 382.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July* 10, 1880.

THE Austro-Hungarian Government continue to receive accounts of constant arrivals of Russian soldiers and non-commissioned officers in Bulgaria and East Roumelia, as well as of arms.

What is now going on very closely resembles what occurred in Servia three years ago, before that Principality went to war with Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 240.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 385. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July* 10, 1880.

THE Russian Ambassador, whom I met this forenoon just as he had left Baron Haymerle, told me that he had been endeavouring to persuade his Excellency not to be too minute in the conditions he wished to attach to the naval demonstration proposed by your Lordship.

He believed that Baron Haymerle would neither insist upon fixing at two the number of ships to be sent by each Power, nor upon Germany being a party to the measure, but he appeared very determined in his objection to any possible operations on shore.

When I saw Baron Haymerle afterwards, he gave me very much the same account of his conversation with M. de Oubril, who, he said, had reproached him with being too particular and minute.

He had answered that he was bound to be so, and to calculate all the consequences of every step that is taken with far more care than may seem necessary either to the Russian or British Governments, who are not in the same position as Austria.

M. d'Oubril was confident that the presence of 500 men from the allied squadrons before Dulcigno would settle the question of the frontier at once without difficulty.

He might be right in this supposition, but it was quite possible that he might turn out to be mistaken, and that the Albanians might combine in a resistance or even in an attack upon Montenegro, which in that case would have to be defended, and this, Baron Haymerle observed, could only be done either by an Austrian army, or by one belonging to some other nation whose troops it would not suit Austria to see in those regions.

It was not even certain that a disembarkation of troops might not lead to hostilities with Turkey, and he could not therefore acquiesce in any scheme in which such a step was included.

He had learnt from Count Károlyi's reports of his conversations with your Lordship that it formed no part of the proposal of Her Majesty's Government, which he had accepted upon the understanding that troops should not be landed, but M. d'Oubril appears very anxious for it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 241.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 590.)
My Lord, *Paris, July* 12, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 588 of yesterday and to previous correspondence, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a note which I received yesterday from M. de Freycinet, and which expresses the views of the French Government respecting the communication to the Porte on the Montenegrin question which has been suggested by your Lordship.

The French Government appear to be unwilling to agree to any allusion to coercive measures, without being previously assured that all the Powers are equally ready to take part in such measure.

They also express hesitation about joining in a naval demonstration in the Adriatic, especially if the object of the demonstration were confined to Montenegrin affairs.

I have already sent to your Lordship by telegraph a brief summary of the substance of M. de Freycinet's note.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 241.

M. de Freycinet to Lord Lyons.

Paris, le 10 Juillet, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

VOTRE Excellence a bien voulu me communiquer dernièrement une suggestion du Gouvernement de la Reine relative aux moyens de combattre le système dilatoire de la Porte, en ce qui concerne la rectification des frontières Turco-Monténégrines. D'après ce que vous m'avez exposé, la Porte, après avoir déclaré matériellement irréalisable le système de délimitation connu sous le nom d'Arrangement Corti, se dirait prête à le mettre à exécution aujourd'hui, et Lord Granville, pensant que cette proposition ne doit être acceptée que sous réserves, serait disposé à accorder au Gouvernement Turc un délai de trois semaines à condition que, si ce délai se passait sans que l'exécution eût eu lieu, la Porte serait invitée à se joindre aux Puissances pour aider le Prince de Monténégro à prendre possession du district de Dulcigno par la force. Les Ambassadeurs à Constantinople adresseraient à ce sujet une communication simultanée au Gouvernement Ottoman dans laquelle ils indiqueraient que le délai de trois semaines daterait de la réception de cette communication par la Porte. Votre Excellence a été chargée de me demander si j'étais disposé à adhérer à ce plan et à envoyer des instructions conformes à notre Ambassadeur à Constantinople.

Le Gouvernement de la République autoriserait volontiers M. Tissot à s'associer à une démarche qui serait faite auprès de la Porte, pour lui déclarer que si, dans un délai de trois semaines, elle n'a pas mis à exécution la combinaison Corti, les Puissances seront obligées de considérer qu'elle est effectivement hors d'état d'en assurer l'accomplissement, qu'il y a lieu, en conséquence, de renoncer complètement l'idée de réaliser l'arrangement susdit, les Puissances se réservant dès lors de rechercher entre elles les moyens d'obtenir la mise en pratique de la combinaison plus récente qui accorde Dulcigno aux Monténégrins.

Toutefois, nous croyons qu'il y aurait peut-être des inconvénients à menacer la Porte de mesures éventuelles de coercition, avant que l'on ne peut être fixé sur la question de savoir si toutes les Grandes Puissances sans exception seraient également préparées à prendre part, le cas échéant, à des mesures de ce genre. Une démonstration navale, si elle devait avoir lieu, pour répondre complètement aux vues des Cabinets, devrait montrer réunis les pavillons des Six Grandes Puissances qui ont sanctionné les arrangements relatifs à la frontière du Monténégro. L'absence du pavillon d'une seule d'entre elles suffirait, en effet, pour diminuer l'autorité de l'action Européenne et pour donner au Gouvernement Turc l'espérance de divisions sur lesquelles il a toujours spéculé. Il nous paraît d'autant plus nécessaire de conserver aux démarches des Puissances le caractère de complet accord, que nous sommes au moment de réclamer de la Porte des sacrifices qui lui coûteront davantage, et auxquels elle ne se résignera certainement que devant la manifestation incontestable de la volonté unanime de l'Europe.

Nous sommes, quant à présent, incomplètement renseignés sur la nature de l'accueil qui pourrait être fait par les différents Cabinets à la proposition de déployer leurs forces navales dans les eaux de l'Adriatique, et pour ce qui nous concerne personnellement, nous éprouverions quelque hésitation à prendre part à une action semblable, surtout si le but devait en être limité à la mise à exécution des arrangements concernant le Monténégro.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) C. DE FREYCINET.

No. 242.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received July 13.)

Paris, July 12, 1880.

(No. 592.)

My Lord,

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegraphic instruction of the 9th instant, I wrote to ask M. de Freycinet whether he was disposed to instruct the French Ambassador to concert with his colleagues for the presentation to the Porte of the collective note respecting the Greek frontier.

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a note in reply which I received from M. de Freycinet yesterday.

Your Lordship will see that his Excellency thinks that arrangements should be made to insure the presentations taking place at Constantinople and at Athens on the same day; and that he is anxious to know whether your Lordship concurs in this opinion.

I have already had the honour to transmit to your Lordship by telegraph the substance of M. de Freycinet's note.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 242.

M. de Freycinet to Lord Lyons.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

VOUS m'avez fait l'honneur de me demander si j'étais disposé à prescrire à l'Ambassadeur de la République à Constantinople de se concerter avec ses collègues, pour que la note collective contenant notification de la décision de la Conférence de Berlin soit remise à la Porte Ottomane, aussitôt que les Ambassadeurs des différentes Puissances en auront reçu le texte.

Je m'empresse de vous annoncer que j'ai donné des instructions dans ce sens à M. Tissot, au moment même où je lui ai transmis la rédaction arrêtée à Berlin.

Toutefois, afin d'observer une exacte parité dans le mode de procéder à suivre à l'égard des deux parties intéressées, il conviendrait d'après la manière de voir du Gouvernement de la République que la remise de la note collective des Puissances eût lieu le même jour à Constantinople et à Athènes. Il serait donc nécessaires de différer l'accomplissement de cette formalité jusqu'au jour où les Agents Diplomatiques des six Gouvernements Médiateurs, dans chacune des deux villes, se trouveront également en possession du texte concerté.

Je vous serai obligé de me faire savoir si le Gouvernement de la Reine est d'accord avec nous sur ce point.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) DE FREYCINET.

No. 243.

Captain Sale to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 19. Political.)

My Lord,

6, Albemarle Street, London, July 12, 1880.

IN reply to your Lordship's letter of this day's date, I have the honour to inclose the translation of a telegram sent by Vesil Bey and others to the Albanian Committee at Janina.

The document now inclosed is in original just as it was received by me.

It was handed to me by Mr. Kypriotis, the British Consular Agent, with the most positive assurance that he, Mr. Kypriotis, knew, from his own personal knowledge, that the translation was correctly made from a copy of the telegram itself, and that the said copy of the telegram was procured direct from the telegraph office.

Mr. Kypriotis at the same time handed to me copies of certain other telegrams procured from the telegraph clerks. These copies are also inclosed.

I knew them to be correct, and thus had strong confirmatory evidence as to the genuineness of telegram No. 1.

From two other independent and trustworthy sources, I had confirmation of the fact that the telegram in question had been duly received in Janina.

A further testimony to the fact that this telegram was received not only in Janina, but also in certain outlying towns, is the circumstance that it was at once acted on, as indicated by the telegrams received from the various Albanian Committees in Epirus.

Concerning this point, I inclose, just as I received it, an extract from the translation of a letter from Paramythia.

As regards the second part of my despatch of the 21st instant, viz., the threat

against the Christians, thinking then, as I do still, that it was a mere trick to cause alarm, I abstained from asking for any evidence in support of that part of the information which had been furnished to me.

Mr. Kypriotis is naturally anxious that his name should not appear in the matter, as the fact of his having procured copies of telegrams from the telegraph clerks would, if known, be injurious to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 243.

Veïsel Bey and others to the Albanian League.

(Traduction.)
(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le $\frac{5}{17}$ Juin*, 1880.

Au Président de la Ligue Albanaise à Janina.

DÉPÊCHEZ télégraphier dans toutes les Ambassades ici, aussi bien que dans la Sublime Porte comme dans les Cabinets des Six Grandes Puissances, que jamais vous n'accepteriez pas qu'une simple même partie de l'Albanie soit cédée dans la Grèce, et que si l'Europe décidera de faire une telle chose, nous mourirons avec les armes aux mains, et que l'Europe en soit responsable.

(Signé) VEÏSEL DINO.
HASSAN TASSIN.
SEÏFOULA.

Nota.—Veïsel est le frère du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères. Seïfoula est l'Aide-de-camp de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Inclosure 2 in No. 243.

Telegram addressed to the Berlin Conference.

Le $\frac{6}{18}$ Juin, 1880.

NOUS, Albanais, avons eu l'honneur de nous adresser plus d'une fois aux Grandes Puissances, soit verbalement, soit par écrit; nous venons encore cette fois-ci avoir recours à leur justice, en les suppliant de vouloir bien avoir pitié de nous et prévenir les dangers innombrables auxquels nous serons exposés par l'annexion aux étrangers, même la moindre partie de notre patrie, et de protéger nos droits sacrés de nationalité et de l'intégrité de notre pays. Nous avons la ferme conviction que notre juste demande sera pris en sérieuse considération; car nous sommes tous prêts à mourir pour sauver nos droits naturels et sacrés, que de nous laisser à la merci des étrangers.

Les Représentants de Janina, Arta, Prevesa, Margariti, Paramythia, Filat, Delvino, Argirocastro, Berat, Valona, Tépélen, Premeti, Conitza, Coritza, &c., &c.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 243.

Telegram addressed to the Ambassadors at Constantinople.

Le $\frac{6}{18}$ Juin, 1880.

NOUS apprenons des journaux qu'une Conférence aura lieu à Berlin pour la question des frontières Helléniques. Ainsi que nous avons eu l'honneur d'informer à plusieurs reprises notre auguste Gouvernement Ottoman, les Cabinets des Grandes Puissances et leurs Représentants à Constantinople, soit verbalement, soit par écrit, le continent connu sous le nom de l'Epire est Albanais, une partie intégrante de l'Albanie, son âme. Un corps ne pouvant exister sans âme, notre existence sera illusoire et impossible, si même la moindre partie de ce continent en est détachée.

La nouvelle de cette Conférence a fait une vive et douloureuse impression sur les esprits de tous les Albanais, braves et courageux. Leur excitation est sans bornes. Si l'on y prend une décision contraire à leurs esprits et à leurs aspirations justes et légitimes, ils ont décidés de s'opposer de toute leur force à tous genres d'invasion sur les frontières actuelles.

Le malheur, les désastres, et la calamité qui certes s'ensuivront, seront horribles. Aucun Albanais vivant ne se laissera céder à qui que ce soit. Nous espérons que les Grandes Puissances ne voudront pas, dans leur justice bien connue, exposer une population, qui n'aspire qu'à son existence, aux dangers de la plus haute importance.

Nous nous sommes déjà adressés à tous les Cabinets des Grandes Puissances. Nous avons recours aussi pour la dernière fois à la justice de votre Excellence.

(Signé) La Ligue Albanaise à Janina.

Inclosure 4 in No. 243.

Letter from Paramythia.

Le $\frac{19}{7}$ Juin, 1880.

TROIS télégrammmes de Constantinople sont arrivés le Vendredi passé aux "Agades" de Paramythia, parvenant de la part de Veïsel Bey, ou de son frère, Abédine Bey, le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

Par ces télégrammes étaient informés que leur pays étant cédé à la Grèce, ils devaient faire toute résistance qu'ils pouvaient. Immédiatement les "Agades" commençaient à faire des Conseils alternatives tantôt chez eux tantôt au konak, sous la vue du Caïmacam et du Cadi, en tâchant au même temps susciter les Musulmans des autres districts.

Pour le moment ils pensent forcer les Chrétiens de télégraphier aux Grandes Puissances qu'ils n'accepteront jamais le changement de Gouvernement présent.

Souleman-Dino, l'oncle du Ministre, s'est rendu hier à Margariti, et forçait les Chrétiens de faire la même sorte de télégrammes.

Tous les "Agades" de Paramythia ne sont pas encore d'accord entre eux pour la mesure qu'ils doivent prendre.

Il y a de peur que le fanatisme se poussera plus loin, et formera des troubles.

No. 244.

M. Contostavlos to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 13.)

(Confidentielle.)
My Lord, *Lundi, le 12 Juillet*, 1880.

REPONDANT à la bienveillante invitation de votre Excellence, de lui soumettre par écrit un résumé succinct de mes explications verbales sur les nouveaux efforts que fait l'Exarque de l'Eglise Bulgare à Constantinople pour obtenir l'autorisation de nommer des évêques de son Eglise dans tout le territoire de l'Empire Ottoman où se trouveraient des Bulgares, je prends la liberté de répéter ici que cette autorisation offre un sujet digne de la plus grande attention de la part de votre Excellence, car elle provoquerait des nouvelles difficultés au sein de l'Empire Ottoman, en portant directement la plus grande atteinte et aux droits de souveraineté du Gouvernement Turc lui-même, et aux droits acquis du Patriarche Œcuménique.

Cette autorisation porterait une atteinte aux droits eux-mêmes de la souveraineté de la Porte; car l'Exarque Bulgare de Constantinople, relevant, comme son titre d'Exarque—c'est-à-dire de Délégué—le dénote, de l'autorité ecclésiastique de la Bulgarie constituée en Etat séparé, se trouverait être un sujet étranger qui fonctionnerait comme tel au sein même de l'Empire Turc.

Cette autorisation porterait encore une atteinte aux droits acquis du Patriarche Œcuménique, parce qu'il a été solennellement reconnu lors de la conquête et confirmé depuis comme le chef et le représentant de la population orthodoxe toute entière de l'Empire, sans distinction aucune de la nationalité de ses ouailles. Et je dois ici observer de plus qu'il ne s'agit pas seulement d'un droit du Patriarcat Œcuménique, mais aussi d'un devoir des plus péremptoires, imposé par les canons eux-mêmes de son église, d'après lesquels il ne lui est pas permis de tolérer la séparation ecclésiastique d'aucune partie du pays soumis à sa juridiction, que sur le fait antérieur de sa séparation politique. C'est ainsi qu'ont été reconnues successivement comme autocéphales et séparées du Patriarcat Œcuménique les églises de la Serbie, de la Roumanie, et de la Grèce elle-même, après la constitution de tous ces pays en Etats indépendants ou semi-indépendants. Une seule exception à cette règle fondamentale a été arbitrairement introduite par la Porte elle-même

en faveur des Bulgares sous la pression alors irrésistible du Général Ignatief, et cette exception, votre Excellence s'en souvient sans doute, a abouti à la séparation politique de la Bulgarie, ce qui fut dès le commencement le but réel mais caché des efforts du Général. Après cela il serait superflu de remarquer que les nouveaux efforts des Bulgares et de leur protecteur, dont il s'agit, ne viseraient réellement qu'à des buts purement politiques, tendant en dernier lieu à préparer le terrain pour la réalisation du Traité de San Stefano, comme cela se trouve d'ailleurs suffisamment indiqué par les machinations d'un autre genre actuellement en œuvre de la part de ces mêmes Bulgares en Thrace et en Macédoine.

Me référant pour tout le reste à mes explications verbales, je saisis, &c.

(Signé) CONTOSTAVLOS.

No. 245.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 80.) *Rome, July 12, 1880, 6·30 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR Lordship's No. 294.

Note just received from Count Maffei states that proposal concerning Montenegro has been submitted to the Cabinet, who have pronounced unanimously in favour of the proposed naval demonstration, not only because the other Powers have accepted it, but because the Italian Government wish to proceed in complete accord with England. Italian Government, therefore, consent both to the simultaneous communication and the naval expedition which is to follow.

No. 246.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 45.) *Scutari, July 12, 1880, 7·20 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

ALBANIAN Committee has received what it calls an official report of the fight which occurred this morning at Golubovce, on the Podgoritza plain.

Thirteen Montenegrin heads are said to have been cut off, the Albanians losing three killed and one wounded.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 247.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 12.) *Athens, July 13, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram No. 18, is collective note to be presented to Greek Government to be in words of note inclosed to your Lordship in Lord Odo Russell's No. 65, Conference, copy of which was sent to me in your despatch No. 90 of 2nd July?

No. 248.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 13. Secret.) *Athens, July 12, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

M. TRICOUPI tells me he fears King will make difficulty about signing Proclamation calling out reserves, which former thinks imperative at an early date. He disapproves also of the King's visiting different Courts, which latter thinks advantageous to Greek cause; but it is damaging to his royal dignity in the eyes of Greece. The visit of King to London was advantageous. If the King does not act according to counsel of Prime Minister, latter is determined to resign.

No. 249.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 13, 1880, 6 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 12 of to-day.

Collective note should be in words of note inclosed in Lord Odo Russell's No. 65, Conference.

No. 250.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received July 13, 6·30 P.M.)

(No. 81.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, July 13, 1880, 3 P.M.*

ITALIAN Government has sent instructions to its Representatives at Constantinople and Athens to concert with their colleagues about presentation of the collective note and award of the Conference.

No. 251.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 13, 6·38 P.M.)

(No. 101.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 13, 1880, 6·27 P.M.*

FRENCH Ambassador has mentioned to Baron Haymerle the unwillingness of his Government to join in any menacing operation against Turkey for the sole object of the settlement of the Montenegrin frontier.

His Excellency says he does not understand this objection, the naval demonstration having been proposed as a proof of the determination of the Powers that the whole of the Treaty of Berlin shall be observed.

No. 252.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 254.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 13, 1880, 6·45 P.M.*

INQUIRE of Porte whether report of fight in Mr. Green's telegram No. 45 of yesterday is accurate, and if so, say that it shows the necessity for a prompt settlement of the question of frontier with Montenegro and the probable advantage of the Dulcigno coast cession, which would not affect this Albanian district where the feeling of hostility to Montenegro prevails.

No. 253.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 101.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 13, 1880.*

I TRANSMIT herewith a copy of a despatch from Captain Sale calling attention to the inaccuracy of both the Austrian Staff Map and the Greek Map of M. Chrysochöos, as regards the topography of the northern watershed of the River Kalamas,[a] and I have to request that you will procure, and forward to this Office, six copies of the map by M. Fundûly, which is mentioned by Captain Sale.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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[a] No. 37.

No. 254.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 102.) *Foreign Office, July* 13, 1880.

Sir,

IN reply to your telegram No. 12 of this day, I have to inform you that the collective note, in which you and your colleagues communicate to the Greek Government the award of the Berlin Conference, should follow exactly the wording of the note inclosed in Lord O. Russell's despatch No. 65, Conference, of which a copy was sent to you on the instant.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 255.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 235.) *Foreign Office, July* 13, 1880.

Sir,

IN reply to your Excellency's despatch No. 89 of the 29th ultimo, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government consider that it would probably be better to leave the amount of the sums to be remitted by the provinces for future financial inquiry; but they would be disposed to be guided by the opinion which your Excellency and Lord E. Fitzmaurice may form on the question of the best means of dealing with this important subject.

I should be glad to be furnished with a further expression of your Excellency's views when you and Lord E. Fitzmaurice have given the matter more detailed consideration.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 256.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 237.) *Foreign Office, July* 13, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE to request your Excellency to inquire of the Porte whether the account of an affray between the Albanians and Montenegrins on the Plain of Podgoritza, which was telegraphed to me by Mr. Green in his No. 45 of yesterday, and repeated to you, has been officially confirmed at Constantinople.

In the event of this being the case, your Excellency will represent to the Turkish Government that the occurrence shows the necessity for a prompt settlement of the Montenegrin frontier question, and is an argument in favour of the proposed cession of the Dulcigno coast, as a solution of the difficulty, which does not affect the Albanian district, where the prevailing feeling is one of hostility to Montenegro.

This instruction has been transmitted to your Excellency by telegraph.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 257.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 396 A. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, July* 13, 1880.

Sir,

I TOLD the Austrian Ambassador to-day that you had reported a conversation with Baron Haymerle, in which the latter, appearing rather to be giving vent to his own thoughts than expressing, in his character of Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, his deliberate opinions to you as Representative of Her Majesty's Government, had alluded to his conviction that a movement was in progress for the extension of Bulgaria south of the Balkans. The conversation to which I referred is that recorded in your despatch No. 355 of the 29th ultimo. I said that we had done and would continue to do what was in our power to dissuade the Bulgarian Government from encouraging or joining in

any such movement, which would be particularly unfortunate at the present moment; that I thought it doubtful whether the union of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia would not ultimately take place, but that Her Majesty's Government would greatly deprecate any such attempts now; and I should be glad to know what steps the Austrian Government thought possible to avert it.

Count Károlyi said that such a contingency would certainly be very unfortunate, and would much interfere with the united action of the Powers. Hitherto all had seemed to go well, and if things continued to work smoothly, great credit would be due to Her Majesty's Government.

I told his Excellency that we had no wish to claim special credit in the matter; that we had been content to leave the initiative to his Government in the question of the Montenegrin frontier, and to that of France in the Greek frontier question. Our only wish had been to promote general co-operation for the general advantage.

Count Károlyi replied that still much was due to the action of England, who was in a position to do more than any other Power to promote united action on the part of Europe towards Turkey; that if our predecessors had continued in office they might have taken the course which Her Majesty's present advisers had done, but if they had done so they would probably have been unable to do it with the same rapidity or effect. He then said that his Government looked upon the Treaty of Berlin as an instrument to be equally observed and maintained in all its provisions, and that, in the event of a threatened movement for a union of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, the preventive measure naturally suggested was the advance of Turkish troops to garrison the line of the Balkans.

I remarked that, in my opinion, it was doubtful whether such a measure was practically in the power of the Porte to adopt; and that, if it were had recourse to, it would probably result in a fresh outbreak of war.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 258.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 81. Political.)

My Lord, *Prisrend, June* 25, 1880.

ON the 21st instant, within an hour's distance of Jakova, some Turks attempted to carry off grain from a mill worked by Christians.

In the affray seven of the former and four of the latter were killed. The Turks now threaten to assassinate every Christian they come across.

Yesterday I had an interview with a Catholic priest just returned from Jakova, whither he had gone to occupy himself with the affairs of his church. He informed me that his life had been menaced, and that it was with the greatest difficulty that he had effected his escape and returned to Prisrend.

Every day brings its list of horrors. In the district of Scopia, or Uskup, the atrocities committed are said to be yet more revolting than those already reported by me.

I had intended sending a messenger to make inquiries, but no Christian can be found willing to undertake so perilous a journey.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 259.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 82. Political.)

My Lord, *Prisrend, June* 26, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 79 of the 22nd instant, reporting that the Albanian League Committee had received instructions from Constantinople to send a petition to the Berlin Conference, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the

petition in question has been forwarded, and its transmission reported by telegraph to the Grand Vizier and to Ghazi Osman Pasha by the Committee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 260.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 83. Political.) *Prisrend, June 26, 1880.*

My Lord,

THE "Albanian League" Committee have given notice to the Secretary of the Governor of Prisrend, who is a Government official, that he must quit within twenty-four hours; otherwise his head would be stuck on a pole!

The Mutessarif, having telegraphed for instructions, was ordered to offer no resistance, so the man left yesterday for Monastir, where Moukhtar Pasha provided him with another post.

The reason assigned for this sudden and unexpected expulsion is, that he had spoken derisively of the "League" and disparagingly of its members.

The rumour is that Ahmet Pasha, the Mutessarif, will shortly have to submit to the same treatment, and that our turn may come next!

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 261.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 186. Political.) *Scutari, July 1, 1880.*

My Lord,

LEST it should be attempted to assert that the departure of Albanian irregulars for the defence of Dulcigno has taken place without the knowledge of the Turkish authorities, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that Izzet Pasha, the military and civil Governor of this province, went yesterday to the Bazaar on the left bank of the River Boyana, accompanied by most of the high functionaries of the vilayet, and witnessed, with evident approval, the embarkation of a fine contingent of the Clementi tribe, which had arrived from its mountains in the morning.

The same publicity has been observed by all the other Albanian irregulars in their movements, and it is said that the force now extending from the Mazura mountain to the bridge of Mercot exceeds 3,000 well-armed men.

Four large native barges, full of cases of cartridges for breech-loading rifles, were, two days ago, moored for a whole day at the custom-house quays of this place, and left without hindrance for Dulcigno. It was said that the cartridges had been sent from the Albanian camp at Tonsi, but it is well known that the mountaineers are not prepared to part with their stores of ammunition, and I have no reason to doubt that all these cartridges were taken from the Castle here.

With seven battalions of regular troops at his disposal, and the majority of the able-bodied natives away either at Tonsi or Dulcigno, Izzet Pasha cannot pretend that he was not in a position to control the so-called transit of this large quantity of ammunition.

The right of the Turkish authorities to permit within their own borders warlike movements and preparations cannot be questioned, subject to their readiness to accept the responsibility of any acts of aggression against Montenegro that may result from their doing so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 262.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 188. Political.) *Scutari, July 2, 1880.*

My Lord,

THE Mussulman Emissary sent by the Albanian Committee of this place to Dibra and Matia to ask for the immediate dispatch of the promised contingents of volunteers, was accompanied, for safety, by a Mirdite zaptieh (policeman) furnished by Capitan Dod Guega, the Chief of the Mirdite police.

When these two persons were about to emerge from the district of Mirdicia, the zaptieh called upon the Mussulman to give up his arms and letters. By a clever pretence of complying the Mohammedan was able to put the zaptieh off his guard, and thus kill him, and escape for refuge to a neighbouring Christian Chief.

The Scutari Committee are inclined to believe that the adventure met by their Emissary has been an attempt on the part of the authorities here, of whom Capitan Dod Guega is a most faithful servant and partisan, to prevent their appeal from reaching the Dibriotes.

I am hardly disposed to take this view of the occurrence, but would not be surprised to learn that Capitan Dod Guega, who is a rival of his fellow-countryman, Prenk Bib Doda, the Chief of the Mirdite Chiefs, and who has been displeased by the position assumed by the latter in recent affairs, may have wished to interfere with the arrangements of the Scutari Committee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 263.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 189. Political.) *Scutari, July 3, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 188 of yesterday, I have the honour to report that the Scutari Committee has learnt that there is some difficulty in the way of the Dibriotes answering the appeal made to them for assistance.

It is said that notice has been received in Dibra from other more influential quarters, for the whole force of that district to hold itself in readiness to proceed at a moment's notice towards Epirus.

I have no doubt that the Dibriotes, who are a lawless people, without any very well defined sense of patriotism, and merely guided by a greed for pillage, have understood that complications are as imminent in Epirus as here, and have, therefore, determined to give the preference to the south, where they will have a larger field for the exercise of their peculiar propensities than on the Montenegrin borders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 264.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 190. Political.) *Scutari, July 3, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Roman Catholics here have been much pleased and encouraged by a message sent to them through Monsignor Cruechi, Bishop of Pulati, who is now in Rome, that the Pope has charged his Reverence to convey his blessing to all good Albanians who are determined to defend their country from falling into the hands of strangers.

The immense influence exercised by the Roman Catholic clergy over the bigoted North Albanian mountaineers invests the message from the Vatican with considerable importance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 265.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 14.)

(No. 46.) *Buyukdéré, July* 7, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the *compte-rendu* of the fourth meeting of the Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 265.

Compte-Rendu.

Séance No. 4, *tenue le* $\frac{15}{30}$ *Juin*, 1880 (22 *Rédjeb*, 1297), *au Lycée Impérial de Galata-Séraï à Constantinople.*

Présidence de Son Excellence ASSIM PACHA.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig, Secrétaire de l'Ambassade Impériale d'Allemagne à Constantinople.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
Le Baron de Kosjek, Conseiller de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale Apostolique à Constantinople.

Pour la France—
M. Aubaret, Consul-Général.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Lord E. Fitzmaurice, Membre du Parlement.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni, Premier Drogman de la Légation d'Italie à Constantinople.

Pour la Russie—
M. Hitrovo, Conseiller d'Etat Actuel, Consul-Général.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha, Vizir, Membre du Sénat.
Abro Effendi, Fonctionnaire de Premier Rang, Première Classe, Conseiller d'Etat.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure.

Le compte-rendu de la précédente séance, lu par M. Séon, est adopté.

M. Aubaret demande à ses collègues Ottomans quand ils pourront présenter la suite des 100 articles du Projet de Réformes.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha répond qu'il déposera sur le bureau, Samedi ou Mercredi prochain, la suite de ce Projet.

La Commission continue, d'après son ordre du jour, la discussion des 100 Articles du Projet.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice propose le renvoi de l'Article 10 à la révision du Chapitre IV.

Le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne développe l'idée qui lui fait désirer cet ajournement.

La Commission décide, à l'unanimité, le renvoi de la discussion de l'Article 10 à l'examen du Chapitre IV.

Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 20.

Article 20.

Le premier alinéa, amendé comme suit par M. Aubaret, est adopté à l'unanimité :—

"Dans chaque vilayet quiconque possède les connaissances et la capacité exigées par la loi est admis, sans distinction de race et de religion, aux fonctions publiques, y compris celles de Vali."

Le Commissaire de France propose comme second alinéa la rédaction suivante :—

"Lorsque la majorité est Musulmane le Chef d'Administration sera Musulman, et là où la majorité est non-Musulmane le Chef d'Administration sera non-Musulman."

Après quelque discussion, ce second alinéa est accepté à la majorité de 6 voix.

MM. les Commissaires Ottomans réservent leur vote.

Le deuxième alinéa du texte, devenu troisième alinéa, est amendé comme suit :—

"Seront préférés ceux, parmi les Chefs d'Administration, qui connaissent aussi la langue du pays, c'est-à-dire, la langue parlée par la majorité des habitants."

Cet alinéa est accepté à l'unanimité avec la réserve qu'introduisent MM. les Commissaires Ottomans que les mots "le Chef d'Administration" employés dans les deuxième et troisième alinéas se rapportent aux Mutessarifs et aux Caïmacams.

Le quatrième alinéa, rédigé de la manière suivante, est adopté à l'unanimité :

"Cependant, nul ne pourra être Chef d'Administration dans son propre district ou arrondissement."

L'Article 20, dans sa totalité, amendé comme ci-dessus, mis aux voix par le Président, est accepté à la majorité de 6 voix.

Les Commissaires Ottomans réservent leur vote sur l'ensemble de l'Article par suite de leur réserve sur le second alinéa.

Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 21.

Article 21.

Les Commissaires de France et de la Grande Bretagne présentent des amendements à cet Article.

Les autres Commissaires proposent quelques modifications à ces amendements. Il en résulte une discussion, après laquelle la Commission adopte, à l'unanimité, la rédaction définitive ci-après :—

"Art. 21. La langue officielle est la langue Turque.

"Parmi les Juges, ceux qui connaissent les langues locales seront préférablement nommés. Quant aux Juges d'Instruction ('Mustantik'), ils seront pris absolument parmi ceux qui possèdent ces langues.

"Les requêtes, pétitions, et toutes les pièces qui doivent être remises aux autorités administratives et judiciaires seront rédigées dans la langue parlée par les intéressés. Les procès-verbaux, sentences, et mazbatas, qui en émaneront, seront rédigés en Turc et dans la langue parlée par les intéressés.

"Devant les Tribunaux, les plaidoiries pourront être faites, au choix des intéressés, dans leur propre langue.

"Les lois destinées à être promulguées dans les vilayets, les Ordonnances, Circulaires, et publications du Vali, ainsi que les autres Arrêtés, Circulaires, et publications officiels intéressant le vilayet, seront rédigés dans la langue officielle Turque et dans les autres principales langues du pays."

Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 22.

Article 22.

L'Article 22 est adopté à l'unanimité.

Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 23.

Article 23.

Le premier alinéa de l'Article 23 est accepté à l'unanimité.

La Commission, après discussion, décide de supprimer le second alinéa, tout en se réservant de discuter plus tard le principe du maintien de la Commission Permanente.

Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 24.

Article 24.

Les Commissaires de France et de la Grande Bretagne présentent l'amendement ci-après :—

"Seront de la compétence exclusive de l'Assemblée de la Province :

"1. Les lois destinées à régler le fonctionnement de l'organisme administratif, judiciaire, et financier, créé par la présente loi.

"2. Les lois d'impôts, hormis ceux qui se rapportent aux douanes et aux impôts et monopoles réservés à l'Empire.

"3. Les lois destinées à régler l'évaluation, le recensement, et l'imposition des propriétés et des biens de rapport.

"4. Les lois du budget et celles portant approbation des comptes d'un exercice clos.

"5. Les lois de la comptabilité du vilayet.

"6. Les lois destinées à régler la perception des impôts.

"7. Les lois touchant l'instruction publique.

"8. Les lois sur les octrois, sur les mines, sur le régime des eaux, et sur celui des forêts.

"9. Les lois sur la voirie et celles sur la concession, la construction et l'exploitation des chemins de fer d'intérêt provincial, ainsi que toutes les lois ayant trait à des travaux publics qui ne s'exécutent pas aux frais de l'Empire.

"10. Les lois concernant l'agriculture, le commerce, l'industrie, les travaux publics, et les intérêts économiques généraux de la province.

"11. Les lois relatives aux institutions de crédit.

"12. Les lois réglant la gestion du domaine provincial.

"13. Les lois touchant les hôpitaux, les orphelinats, les bureaux de bienfaisance, et l'assistance publique.

"14. Les lois sur les dîmes.

"15. Les lois sur les prisons.

"16. Les lois sur les vacoufs.

"17. Les lois sur la gendarmerie et la police."

L'Assemblée délibère sur toutes les questions ci-dessus nommés.

"Les lois seront soumises à l'approbation de Sa Majesté le Sultan qui les sanctionnera, si elles ne portent pas atteinte aux droits et aux principes de la législation de l'Empire. Si, dans la suite, il y avait à apporter des modifications à la présente loi, dans un intérêt purement local, ces modifications votées aux deux tiers des voix seraient également soumises à la sanction de la Sublime Porte.

"Dans les deux cas l'approbation sera censée donnée, si, dans un délai de trois mois, après que les lois ci-dessus nommées auront été présentées au Vali pour être soumises à Sa Majesté le Sultan, Sa Majesté n'a pas fait connaître sa décision."

Sur la demande de MM. les Commissaires Ottomans, la discussion de l'Article 24 est ajournée à la prochaine séance.

L'ordre du jour appelle la question des pétitions.

Le Chevalier Venoni propose d'adopter les Règlements qui ont été en vigueur à la précédente Commission.

MM. les Commissaires Ottomans ne peuvent se rallier à cette proposition, qui, si elle était adoptée, porterait atteinte à la dignité du Gouvernement Impérial, et prient, en conséquence, leurs collègues de la rejeter.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice, pour éviter le danger signalé par MM. les Commissaires Ottomans, propose l'amendement suivant :—

"Les Commissaires auront le droit de communiquer à la Commission, mais simplement à titre de renseignement, toutes les pétitions qui leur ont auront été adressées."

M. Hitrovo, excipant aussi du précédent de la Commission en Roumélie Orientale, engage ses collègues à adhérer à l'amendement du Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne.

Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie et de France, tout en reconnaissant l'importance des pétitions qu'ils considèrent comme un précieux moyen d'information, prennent en sérieuse considération l'objection mise en avant par son Excellence Assim Pacha, et ne pensent pas qu'il soit utile de recevoir officiellement les pétitions au sein de la Commission.

Le Président met aux voix la motion de Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

Les Commissaires de la Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Russie votent pour.

Ceux d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, et de Turquie votent contre.

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne, constatant une divergence d'opinion parmi ses collègues, et ne désirant pas se mettre en désaccord avec eux, s'abstient.

Il en résulte un vote dont la nullité est constatée par le Président.

L'ordre du jour appelle les débats sur la proposition faite par Lord E. Fitzmaurice

à la précédente séance: Introduction, dans le Projet de Loi, des Articles 4 et 5 du Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale.

Le premier de ces Articles, remplacé par la rédaction suivante, est adopté à l'unanimité :—

"Pour le maintien de l'ordre dans le vilayet, il ne pourra être fait emploi que de la gendarmerie, de la police constituée et de l'armée régulière."

Le second Article Additionnel, amendé comme suit, est adopté à la majorité de 6 voix :—

"Nulle colonie nouvelle de Circassiens ne pourra être établie dans le vilayet."

MM. les Commissaires Ottomans, considérant cet Article comme étant une persécution dirigée envers les Circassiens, votent contre.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée à Samedi, 3 Juillet :

La continuation de la discussion des 100 Articles du Projet.

La séance est levée à 5 heures et demie.

(Signé) ASSIM.
ABRO.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KOSJEK.
AUBARET.
ED. FITZMAURICE.
VERNONI.
HITROVO.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) SÉON.
C. CARTWRIGHT.
GRITZENKO.
M. RÉCHID.

No. 266.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 321. Confidential.)

Rome, July 8, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to receive yesterday morning your Lordship's telegram No. 262, Confidential, of the 6th instant, repeating one addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople relative to communications which had passed between your Lordship and the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador in London in regard to a further representation to be made to the Porte, with a view to obtaining an immediate settlement of the Montenegrin frontier question, and directing me to ascertain the views of the Italian Government with reference to this proposal.

I immediately sent to request an interview of the President of the Council, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Count Maffei called on me shortly afterwards to say he was directed by M. Cairoli to express his regret that he would be the whole day in the Chamber, and therefore unable to receive me, and that he consequently requested me to make my communication to him (Count Maffei).

I then acquainted Count Maffei with the substance of your Lordship's telegram.

Her Majesty's Government, I said, were of opinion that the Porte should be informed that it is impossible to permit the Porte to practise its usual system of delay in regard to the Montenegrin question; that Her Majesty's Government have learnt that the Porte is sending 6,000 men and money to Scutari, from which it may be inferred that the Porte considers these means sufficient, notwithstanding previous declarations, to enable it to carry out the April Convention; that Her Majesty's Government believe that it would be in the interest of the Porte, and more advantageous to all parties, to carry out the Dulcigno proposal, and they are therefore prepared to strongly recommend it; that, nevertheless, if the Turkish Government should adhere to the April Convention to which they are pledged, Her Majesty's Government consider that they must be made clearly to understand that unless the Porte can carry out the April Agreement within three weeks from the date of the receipt of a simultaneous communication from the Ambassadors, the Porte will be expected to join England and Austria, on the part of the Powers, in assisting the Prince of Montenegro to take possession by force of the Dulcigno district under the alternative plan.

Her Majesty's Government, I added, were desirous of learning the views of the Italian Government upon this proposal, which, there was reason to believe, would be concurred in by Austria.

Count Maffei said he would immediately acquaint M. Cairoli with this communication, and he hoped to be able to give me his Excellency's answer upon it in the course of the day. He did not anticipate any difficulty on the part of the Italian Government in assenting to it.

About 8 o'clock in the evening Count Maffei called again. He said he had spoken to the President of the Council, who seemed to be favourably inclined towards assenting to the proposal, but had desired him to say that in a matter of such gravity he should wish, not for the purpose of any future publication, for he could assure me it would never be made use of in this way, but, for his more complete information, to have the exact proposal in writing.

I told Count Maffei that I was not authorized to make any written communication on this subject, but only to sound the views of the Italian Government as to the proposal in question.

Count Maffei said it was very difficult to be perfectly accurate in reporting a verbal communication to another person, and asked me, therefore, if I should have any objection to repeat to him again what I had said in the morning, and allow him to take it down in writing.

Having consented to this, I repeated the proposal as nearly as possible in the words I have recorded above, and yesterday morning I received a note from Count Maffei saying that he was directed by the President of the Council to tell me that the Italian Government agree in principle to any proposal for a simultaneous communication to be made to the Porte by the Powers on the necessity of settling at once the Montenegrin question. But as regards the second part of the proposal, namely, a joint action for assisting the Prince of Montenegro to take possession of the districts assigned to him, the Italian Government require some further explanation. He adds that, from a telegram from General Menabrea, your Lordship appears to have spoken of a general joint action of all the Powers, Italy included, and not of an action limited to England and Austria alone. The Italian Government consider the matter of such great importance that, before pronouncing themselves, they would like to have an exact and well-defined proposal.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 267.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 324.) *Rome, July 10, 1880.*

My Lord,

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 286, I immediately communicated with the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who informed me that instructions would be sent to the Italian Ambassador at Constantinople to concert with his colleagues as to presenting to the Porte the collective note drafted by the Berlin Conference, as soon as the respective Embassies at Constantinople have received copies of the draft and the awards of the Conference on the Greek frontier question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 268.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 14, 1 P.M.)

(No. 47.) *Scutari, July 13, 1880, 3·30 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram No. 42 of the 10th July, the Montenegrin Government, by a telegram dated yesterday, requests me to explain to your Lordship, without the possibility of a mistake arising, that although prepared to accept whichever of the two frontier arrangements the Powers may decide upon, it has so little trust in the good faith of the Porte that it [? cannot and will not] negotiate directly with it, and will only move when the Powers have been satisfied of the *bona fides* of the Turkish Government.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 269.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 14.) *Athens, July 14, 1880.*

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, No. 20, my colleagues anxious to know when I shall receive text of collective note. Some of them are authorized to adopt text which may have been received by a colleague. Am I at liberty to do so, or am I to wait until text of note is sent to me?

Draft of collective note in Lord Odo Russell's No. 65, Conference, sent to me in No. 90, is incomplete.

No. 270.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.[a]

(No. 258.) *Foreign Office, July 14, 1880.*

(Telegraphic.)

PROTOCOLS 5 and 7, containing text of collective note and award, were sent to you on 8th instant.

You were authorized by my telegram of the 12th July to arrange with your colleagues as to presentation of note on the same day at Constantinople and Athens.

No. 271.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 259.) *Foreign Office, July 14, 1880.*

(Telegraphic.)

TREASURER of Lady Strangford's fund communicates a report that Turkish officials contemplate seizing a large amount of this year's harvest in Kurdistan on account of arrears of taxes. Can you ascertain if this is true?

No. 272.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 260.) *Foreign Office, July 14, 1880.*

(Telegraphic.)

WE hear on good authority that it would greatly assist the peaceful settlement of the Greek Frontier question if the Mussulman proprietors in the ceded districts were guaranteed in the possession of their estates.

You might suggest to the Sultan that he should make this a condition of the Porte's acceptance of the Berlin award, stating that Her Majesty's Government would be ready to acquiesce and to recommend it to the other Powers; and that Her Majesty's Government would be ready to give practical effect to the guarantee by naming Consuls or Commissioners who should be stationed in Epirus and Thessaly to see that it was faithfully carried out.

You might mention the instructions in my despatch to Mr. Corbett No. 83 of the 28th June, and hint to Abeddin Pasha that the Mussulman proprietors would be very unwise not to accept this offer, as they cannot expect that the same consideration will be shown to them if there is resistance to the award.

No. 273.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received July 14, 1 P.M.)

(No. 51.) *Paris, July 14, 1880, 11·15 A.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram No. 266.

M. de Freycinet says that he is quite ready to take part in the naval demonstration, but on two conditions: first, that all the Powers take part; and secondly, that it is clearly

[a] Also to Mr. Corbett (No. 21).

understood that the same measure will be taken in case of need with regard to the Greek question.

He is, however, still of opinion that the identic note to the Porte about Montenegro should not contain any more definite threat than that at the end of three weeks the Powers will resume full liberty of action as to the measures to be taken by them.

He argues that this might alarm the Porte more than a less vague announcement, and that it would allow the Powers to make the naval demonstration without giving the Porte any further warning.

No. 274.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 14, 3·30 P.M.)

(No. 117.) *Constantinople, July* 14, 1880, 1 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

THE collective note is to be signed and presented by Count Hatzfeldt to-morrow. I cannot find that I have actual instructions to sign it, but gather from the telegrams that I have authority to do so. The instructions and copy of the note will no doubt reach me by messenger in the course of the morning to-morrow.

No. 275.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 311.) *Foreign Office, July* 14, 1880, 3·45 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram No. 80.

Her Majesty's Government are glad to learn the readiness of Italian Government to proceed in concert with the other Powers.

No. 276.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 343. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, July* 14, 1880, 6·45 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

YOU may mention confidentially to the King that Her Majesty's Government have received information to the effect of the telegram from Mr. Corbett No. 13, Secret, repeated to you to-day.

No. 277.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 271.) *Foreign Office, July* 14, 1880, 7 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR Excellency's telegram No. 51 respecting Montenegro.

As the identic note has been agreed to by all the other Powers, it would be most inexpedient to attempt to alter it now. The vague warning would be altogether illusory. It is essential that the Prince of Montenegro should know definitely what is proposed, and nothing could be gained by keeping it from the Porte. The only Power that does not propose to send ships is Germany, who may have a good reason in the limited number of her fleet.

No. 278.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 324.) *Foreign Office, July* 14, 1880, 7·30 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram to Lord Odo Russell repeated to you to-day, ask Baron Haymerle to exercise influence of Austrian Government with Prince Bismarck to obtain consent of German Government to send a ship or two to join in Dulcigno const demonstration.

No. 279.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 327.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 14, 1880, 7·30 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 101.

Her Majesty's Government concur with Baron Haymerle as to the objections raised by France to the proposed naval demonstration for settling the Montenegro frontier. You may show his Excellency my telegram No. 266 to Lord Lyons.

Her Majesty's Government feel confident that the best way to bring about a peaceful solution of other questions, and to induce the Porte and Albanians to accept the Greek frontier of the Berlin Conference, is for the Powers to show themselves determined and united respecting Montenegro.

No. 280.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 263.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 14, 1880, 7·30 P.M.

WITH reference to Lord Lyons' telegram No. 49, and to the telegrams to him which have been repeated to you respecting the hesitation of the French to join in naval demonstration on Dulcigno coast, urge as strongly as you can upon Prince Bismarck the importance of demonstration of united action in regard to the Montenegrin frontier as a means of inducing the Porte and Albanians to accept also the Berlin Conference award for the Greek frontier; how dangerous it would be to discourage the Powers from proceeding in concert in regard to Montenegro after the general agreement of the majority has been arrived at upon it; and the opening which the abstinence of Germany and France would give to the Porte.

Count Münster told me he thought his Government would send a ship to enforce the decision of the Berlin Conference. Her Majesty's Government believe the settlement of the Montenegrin question would be the best stepping-stone to it.

No. 281.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 241.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 14, 1880.

HER Majesty's Government have reason to believe that it would greatly assist the peaceful settlement of the question of the Greek frontier if the Mussulman proprietors in the ceded districts were guaranteed in the possession of their estates.

Your Excellency might accordingly suggest to the Sultan that His Majesty should make such a guarantee a condition of the Porte's acceptance of the Berlin Award, assuring him at the same time that this condition would be acquiesced in by Her Majesty's Government, who would be ready to recommend its acceptance to the other Powers; they would also be prepared to give practical effect to the guarantee by appointing Consuls or Commissioners in Epirus and Thessaly, whose duty would be to see to its faithful execution.

Your Excellency might also mention the instructions to Mr. Corbett of the 28th ultimo (No. 83), of which a copy was sent to you on the 8th instant, from which it will be seen that Her Majesty's Government have already made proposals to the Government of Greece in favour of the Mussulman population; but it would be as well that you should at the same time give Abédine Pasha to understand that it would be very unwise of the Mussulman proprietors to refuse the offer of a special guarantee, as they must be aware that they cannot expect to receive the same consideration if there is resistance to the award.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 282.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 379.) *Foreign Office, July* 14, 1880.

My Lord,

I SAW the German Ambassador yesterday for a short time.

I expressed to his Excellency my regret at the refusal of his Government to take part in the naval demonstration by which it was proposed, in case of necessity, to assist in enforcing the transfer of Dulcigno to Montenegro.

Count Münster replied that Germany would be prepared to send ships for enforcing the arrangement with regard to the Greek frontier.

I told his Excellency that though I was glad to hear this, I still maintained my opinion that the abstinence of one or more of the Powers from the first demonstration of material force would greatly diminish its effect, not only in regard to the particular question at issue, but also, which was even more important, as a deterrent against resistance by the Porte to the fulfilment of the other conditions of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 283.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 380.) *Foreign Office, July* 14, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my preceding despatch, I inclose correspondence with Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris,* from which your Excellency will see that the French Government advance similar objections to those made by the German Government against a naval demonstration at Dulcigno, and that Her Majesty's Government are earnestly endeavouring to induce them to change their views.

I have to request your Excellency to make an equally vigorous effort to overcome the hesitation of the German Government. You should strongly urge the importance of the demonstration of united action on the Montenegrin frontier question as a means of causing the Porte and the Albanians not only to accept a definitive settlement in that quarter, but also to understand the uselessness of opposition to the Award of the Conference on the question of the Greek frontier. You should beg Prince Hohenlohe to consider the danger of discouraging the Powers from acting in concert on the Montenegrin question after a general agreement of the majority has been arrived at. You should impress upon him that the abstinence of Germany and France from a step in which the other Powers concurred would give an opening to the Porte of which it would hardly fail to take advantage; and you should make use of the arguments urged by me in my conversation with Count Münster, recorded in my preceding despatch, as to the deterrent effect which united action on this question would have generally against resistance on the part of the Porte to the settlement of other questions.

I inclose also copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna,† requesting him to urge the Austro-Hungarian Government to use their influence to induce the German Government to withdraw their objection, and to consent to join in the combined demonstration.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 284.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 404.) *Foreign Office, July* 14, 1880.

Sir,

I INCLOSE copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Lord Odo Russell, the substance of which has been sent to you by telegraph,‡ instructing him to urge the importance of the co-operation of Germany in the projected naval demonstration on the Albanian coast; and I have to request your Excellency to ask Baron Haymerle to exercise the influence of the Austro-Hungarian Government to induce the German

* Nos. 231 and 241.

† No. 284.

‡ No. 282.

Government to consent to the presence of one or two German men-of-war if the combined squadrons appear on that coast.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 285.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 406.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 14, 1880.

I LEARN from your Excellency's telegram No. 101 of yesterday, that Baron Haymerle does not understand the objections entertained by the French Government to joining in a naval demonstration on the Albanian coast with the object of promoting the settlement of the Montenegrin boundary question, his Excellency justly observing that the demonstration has been proposed as a proof that the Powers are determined that the Treaty of Berlin should be observed in its entirety.

Her Majesty's Government concur with the Austro-Hungarian Government as to the want of foundation for the French objections. Their views have been expressed in the despatch to Lord Lyons No. 913 of the 12th instant, copy of which is inclosed, and the substance of which I should wish your Excellency to communicate to Baron Haymerle.

It is the confident belief of Her Majesty's Government that the best way of bringing about a peaceful solution of other unsettled questions arising out of the Treaty of Berlin, and of inducing the Porte and the Albanians to accept the line of frontier to be accorded to Greece, adopted by the late Conference, is by letting it be clearly understood that the Powers are determined, and united in the determination, that the question of the Montenegrin frontier shall be definitely and promptly settled.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 286.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 324.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, July* 14, 1880.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 273 of the 25th ultimo, giving an account of the interview you had with M. de Giers on the subject of the inquiry it was proposed to institute into the treatment of the minor populations of Eastern Roumelia. Her Majesty's Government approve the language you held to his Excellency with regard to the nature and object of the mission with which they suggested that Colonel Wilson should be charged.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 287.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 326. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, July* 14, 1880.

I HAVE heard from Mr. Corbett that M. Tricoupi had expressed dissatisfaction at the course which was being pursued by the King of the Hellenes in visiting the different Courts of Europe with a view to obtaining their support in the cause of Greece; it was, he considered, derogatory to his royal dignity in the eyes of his own people. This did not, however, apply to His Majesty's visit to London, which had been advantageous.

M. Tricoupi also showed anxiety at the prospect of opposition being raised by His Majesty to the signature of the Proclamations which had been sent to him for calling out the reserves; their issue at an early date was, in his opinion, imperatively necessary, and if his advice were not taken he was determined to send in his resignation.

I have communicated this information to your Excellency by telegraph, in order that you may mention it confidentially to His Majesty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 288.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 328. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, July 14, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Russian Ambassador told me in conversation this afternoon that Musurus Bey, the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, had called upon him and delivered to him a message of civility from the Sultan, which had been forwarded through Musurus Pasha.

Prince Labanow did not tell me the exact nature of the message, but he said that he had added to his acknowledgments the expression of a hope that His Majesty would find himself able to agree to the recommendations of the Powers. He said that Musurus Bey had attempted to argue the question with him, stating that the decision of the Conference at Berlin in regard to the Greek frontier was one to which the Sultan could not and would never agree. He had merely replied that the more the matter was delayed the worse, as it appeared to him, were the terms that were offered to Turkey. The Porte could have obtained more favourable conditions than were now proposed if they had consented to discuss and settle the matter at the time of the Congress of Berlin, and the practical conclusion to his mind was, that they should close with the solution now open to them rather than allow the question to assume a more serious phase.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 289.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 926.)
Foreign Office, July 14, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 51, in which your Excellency reports M. de Freycinet's readiness to take part in the proposed naval demonstration off the Duleigno coast on two conditions; the first being that all the Powers should take part in it; and the second, that it is to be understood that, in case of need, the same measures shall be taken with regard to the Greek question.

M. de Freycinet, however, as your Excellency states, still holds the opinion that the proposed identic note to the Porte should not contain any more definite threat than that at the end of three weeks from the presentation of such note the Powers will resume full liberty of action as to the measures to be taken by them; and M. de Freycinet argues that such a course might alarm the Porte more than a less vague announcement, whilst it would allow the Powers to make the naval demonstration without giving the Porte any further warning.

I have now to state to your Excellency, in reply, that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that as the identic note has been agreed to by all the other Powers, it would be most inexpedient to attempt to alter it now.

They consider that the vague warning to the Porte advocated by M. de Freycinet would prove altogether illusory; and that it is essential that the Prince of Montenegro should know definitely what is proposed, and that nothing could be gained by keeping such knowledge from the Porte.

The only Power amongst those interested in the proposed proceedings who do not propose to send ships to take part in the naval demonstration is Germany, who may have a good reason for such abstention in the limited number of her fleet.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 290.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 927.)
Foreign Office, July 14, 1880.

My Lord,

THE French Ambassador told me this afternoon that the King of Greece had twice spoken to the French Ambassador at Berlin, stating that M. Tricoupi was pressing upon him strongly the speedy mobilization of the Greek Army, and the convocation of the Chambers. His Majesty begged that the Powers would not merely advise the Greek Government to abstain for the present from any appearance of hostile preparation against Turkey but would insist upon their doing so.

I told M. Challemel Lacour that if we were to use peremptory language of this kind, the Greek Government would probably throw upon the Governments who used it the whole responsibility of the attempt to acquire the territory assigned to Greece by the decision of the Conference at Berlin.

His Excellency agreed in this view.

I told him of the renewed representation which the Greek Government had addressed to me through their Minister here on the subject; I said that I had replied that Her Majesty's Government had given the best advice in their power, that they did not wish to force that advice upon the Greek Government, but that I should be glad to know whether, if the Porte refused to cede the territory in question, and the measures proposed were immediately taken, they considered that Greece would be able to take possession of the new frontier.

M. Challemel Lacour expressed his concurrence in this language.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 291.

Earl Granville to Lord A. Paget.

(No. 368.)
Foreign Office, July 14, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 80 of this day, respecting your communication with the Italian Government in regard to the proposed measures for hastening a settlement of the Montenegrin frontier question; and you will express to that Government the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the readiness which they have shown to co-operate with the other Powers in the manner proposed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 292.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 224. Confidential.)
Athens, July 7, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 7 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that it is the intention of the Government, as soon as they have heard by telegraph from the King that the Proclamation for calling out the reserves and mobilizing the army has been signed, to act at once upon it, in order to be able to retain in the ranks of the active army a considerable number of men whose period of service is about to expire, and whom it might be difficult to bring back to the colours if allowed to go to their homes.

Volunteering goes on very satisfactorily. The third battalion of infantry, a squadron of cavalry, a battery of mountain guns, and two companies of Engineers, according to the War Office account 860 men in all, left Athens to-day for the Thessalian frontier. They will receive and incorporate the volunteers enrolled at the several recruiting stations in Continental Greece as they pass through on their way to the frontier.

A considerable body of troops is being collected at Corfu and the neighbouring islands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 293.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 15.)

(No. 20. Political.) *London, July* 14, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of a petition sent in the year 1847 by certain Mahommedans of South Albania to the Greek Government, praying for annexation to that country.

I received this petition (translation) from Corfu, and sent it to your Lordship in case a copy should not be at hand in the Foreign Office.

The petition is understood to have been prepared more as a means of putting pressure on the Porte than from any actual desire to join Greece; but it is of interest as showing that within a time comparatively recent the Mahommedans of South Albania entertained ideas very different to those which they profess at present.

It is also worthy of notice that the father of Abédine Pasha, a certain Ahmed Dino, was amongst the signers of this petition.

This Ahmed Dino was himself the son of a Christian of Philiatès, named Constandino, who afterwards abjured Christianity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE.

Inclosure in No. 293.

Petition from Albanian Mussulmans to the Greek Government.

TRADUCTION littérale de l'original Gree de l'adresse que les Beys et Agas Albanais, Musulmans, des Sandjaks de Delvino, d'Avlona, Minahiyé Courvelessi, Haut et Bas Berat, Tepelléni, et de Dionitza, en tout cinq cazas, contenant en familles:—

	Familles.
Haut Malakastra	1,388
Bas Malakastra	2,911
Rethi Mouzakias	1,011
Ville de Berat	711
District Tepali	2,830
Skrapari	1,830
Tepeléni	4,500
Caza Avlona	4,500
Caza Delvino	1,840
Total	21,620

ont adressée sous la date du 15 Août, 1847, au Sénat et à la Chambre de la Grèce:—

"Illustres Président, Primats, qui êtes à Athènes, terre de la Grèce de Sa Majesté Othon, Roi, nous vous embrassons fraternellement et vous informons:

"Les Soussignés qui vous saluent portons humblement nos plaintes parce que nous sommes restés peuple très-pauvre dans cet aride et pierreux pays sans aucune science ou instruction, étant tous gens d'armes. Depuis que Constantinople a été conquise par les Sultans jusqu'aujourd'hui nous nous sommes conduits avec beaucoup de fidélité et de soumission aux ordres des Envoyés, Vizirs, Pachas, Caïmacams, et Mutesselims de trente-trois Sultans.

"Depuis environ 100 ans nous avons toujours versé notre sang dans toutes leurs guerres. Celui qui n'aime pas ses maîtres ne craint pas Dieu. Mais les *oussouls* ('institutions fondamentales') anciens ont été altérés et on nous en a imposé de nouveaux insupportables chez nous.

"On nous a donné des fonctionnaires à chaque province qui n'ont cherché que le khatir et l'injustice et n'ont jamais gouverné comme tous les Rois de l'Europe gouvernent ni avec la crainte de Dieu et de notre Prophète, mais brutalement et arbitrairement.

"C'est pourquoi nous nous sommes révoltés contre notre Sultan qui aurait dû être notre Vékil et père pour tous, nous, Musulmans. Après que après plusieurs reprises, nous avons porté nos plaintes aux pieds du trône avec Amans et larmes; mais jamais il ne nous a été fait droit ni accordé pitié de la part du Devlet.

"C'est pourquoi nous envoyons une personne exprès pour communiquer à vos Seigneuries tout ce qu'il faut.

"Si la Majesté Royale de la Grèce veut nous admettre de devenir citoyens Grecs, les Soussignés, Primats des cinq cazas, nous sommes prêts à nous unir à la Grèce moyennant Conventions et Capitulations mutuelles.

"Pour l'amour de Dieu, prenez pitié de nous aussi, qui sommes créatures de Dieu.

"S'il n'y a pas espoir de Salut pour nous il ne nous reste qu'à succomber sous l'épée des hommes, si tel est le décret de la Providence.

"Les Soussignés, Primats des Cazas d'Avlona de Delvino, de Minahiyé, de Courvelessi, de Malakastra, du Haut et Bas Berat, de Tepeléni, et de Dionitza, en tout cinq cazas, nous prions et supplions la Majesté Royale de la Grèce de prendre pitié de nous; mais si, par malheur, elle ne nous aime pas et nous abandonne, c'est que Dieu a décidé notre mort, car la vie que nous menons est insupportable. Et si votre Royauté ne veut pas accorder sa confiance prévenez-nous et nous vous donnerons encore d'autres gages de garantie et de sécurité.

"Notre Envoyé vous expliquera le tout verbalement et nous vous prions de nous répondre. Que la volonté de Dieu soit faite!

"Vos bien-aimés Présidents et Seigneurs des cazas nous signons en apposant nos cachets.

(Suivent 77 cachets et signatures des Beys et Agas pétitionnaires.)

No. 294.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received July* 15.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, July* 13, 1880.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of Earl Granville, that the Commanding officer of Her Majesty's ship "Coquette," in a letter dated from Corfu, the 8th instant, reports that reliable information has been received that an Albanian passed through from Constantinople on the 6th July for Santa Quaranta, conveying a message from the Turkish Foreign Minister to the Albanians to the effect that the Sultan hopes the latter are all united, as he would rather lose his throne than cede a portion of their country to Greece.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. N. SWAINSON.

No. 295.

Abédine Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, July* 15.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 14 Juillet*, 1880.

D'APRÈS un télégramme adressé à la Sublime Porte par le Gouverneur-Général de Scutari d'Albanie, le Monténégro vient de compromettre sérieusement la mission pacificatrice que les autorités Impériales poursuivaient à Touzy. Au moment où les nôtres avaient recours au Conseil, et à la persuasion pour assurer l'exécution de l'Acte du 18 Avril sans effusion de sang, les Monténégrins sont tombés à l'improviste sur les positions de Vranja et de Matagousse occupées par les Albanais.

L'attaque a eu lieu le 12 courant, à 7 heures et demie du matin à la Turque. Le combat qui s'en est suivi a duré deux heures, et a fini par la retraite des Monténégrins, qui ont laissé sur place un officier et douze soldats. Les Albanais ont eu à leur tour deux morts et trois blessés.

L'inégalité des pertes subies de part et d'autre provient de ce que les Albanais étaient retranchés derrière leurs fortifications, et que les Monténégrins avaient été les y attaquer. Cependant, comme ces derniers cherchent à intervertir les rôles pour donner le change à l'opinion publique, je vous prie de rétablir autour de vous la vérité sur la situation.

No. 296.

Abédine Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, July* 15.)

Constantinople, le 15 *Juillet*, 1880.

(Télégraphique.)

J'E viens de répondre à la dernière note des Représentants des Six Puissances concernant la question Monténégrine.

Voici le texte de ce document :—

"J'ai eu l'honneur de recevoir la note responsive que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser en date du 26 Juin au sujet de la question du Monténégro.

"Votre Excellence, tout en déclinant la proposition de la Sublime Porte, se déclare autorisée par son Gouvernement à nous indiquer, comme l'équivalent des cessions stipulées par l'Acte du 18 Avril, une rectification de frontière à l'est et à l'ouest du Lac de Scutari, rectification qui, du côté de la mer, étendrait le littoral appartenant aujourd'hui au Monténégro jusqu'à l'embouchure de la Boyana, y compris Dulcigno.

"Votre Excellence conseille en même temps à la Sublime Porte d'accorder aux Albanais de la province de Scutari certains arrangements administratifs.

"Je suis autorisé à déclarer en réponse à votre Excellence que le Gouvernement Impérial est résolu à user, dans la mesure du possible, de tous les moyens propres à assurer la prompte réoccupation des positions qui ont été évacuées par les troupes Impériales et qui se trouvent aujourd'hui entre les mains des Albanais, et à arriver ainsi à l'exécution de l'Acte du 18 Avril.

"Toutefois la Sublime Porte n'hésite pas à prendre en considération le mode de solution indiqué dans la note précitée de votre Excellence, bien que son application n'en soit pas moins hérissée de difficultés.

"En attendant, je crois devoir annoncer à votre Excellence que, d'après les rapports que le Gouvernement Impérial vient de recevoir de Scutari, les efforts déployés par nos autorités ont eu déjà pour résultat d'obtenir que les Albanais ne s'opposeront pas à la cession de la plus grande partie du territoire dévolu au Monténégro par la Convention du 15 Avril.

"En présence de ce résultat, le Gouvernement Impérial, se prévalant du principe d'échange déjà admis par les Puissances, pense que la cession consentie par les Albanais pourrait servir à un arrangement des plus satisfaisants si l'on y . . . . . elle aura comme compensation pour le reste un territoire d'une étendue plus considérable à prendre dans le district de Dulcigno hormis la ville de Dulcigno habitée par des Musulmans Albanais.

"En vous communiquant ce qui précède comme une proposition qui, dans la pensée de la Sublime Porte, offre tous les avantages d'une solution prompte et pacifique, j'aime à espérer que le Gouvernement voudra bien approuver un tel arrangement qui est, sans contredit, de nature à écarter les complications et difficultés inévitables que provoquerait l'application soit de l'Acte du 18 Avril, soit du mode de solution proposée dans la note en question de votre Excellence, en même temps qu'il contribuerait à la réconciliation des Monténégrins et des Albanais ainsi qu'au rétablissement des rapports de bon voisinage entre ces deux peuples.

"En ce qui concerne les arrangements administratifs à conférer aux Albanais de la province de Scutari, je me permettrai de faire observer à votre Excellence que les populations de cette province se sont toujours montrées satisfaites de leur situation et qu'elles n'ont jamais eu la pensée de demander à la Sublime Porte des privilèges autres que ceux dont elles ont joui jusqu'à ce jour.

"Au demeurant, le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman a mis en ce moment à l'étude, conformément aux dispositions de l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin, un règlement applicable à toutes les provinces de la Turquie d'Europe, et il va sans dire que l'Albanie sera également appelée à en bénéficier.

"Veuillez, &c."

Je vous prie de conformer, le cas échéant, votre langage aux conclusions de notre nouvelle communication et d'insister sur le caractère éminemment conciliant de notre proposition qu'elle contient.

No. 297.

Abédine Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, July* 15.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 12 *Juillet*, 1880.

LES difficultés qui ont surgi à propos de la prise de possession du territoire cédé au Monténégro ont amené momentanément la suspension des travaux de la Commission de Délimitation. En attendant l'aplanissement de ces difficultés nous désirons qu'il soit procédé à la délimitation de la frontière du côté de la Bosnie, de l'Herzégovine, et de Novi-Bazar.

Veuillez faire des démarches auprès du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères pour qu'il ait à donner des instructions dans ce sens au Délégué de son Gouvernement au sein de la Commission sus-mentionnée.

No. 298.

Pro-Memorid left with Earl Granville by M. de Hengelmüller, July 15, 1880.

THE Turkish Government have expressed us their desire to reassemble the Commission for the delimitation between Montenegro and Herzegovina.

We declined to adhere to this wish, and Baron Haymerle has told the Turkish Ambassador that this Commission had suspended its labours on the 10th May last on the demand of Montenegro; that it had been agreed upon to have it adjourned until to the settlement of the frontier on the Albanian side; that there was no difference between us and Montenegro with regard to the delimitation; that the Commission will be able to provide for it when it will undertake the delimitation on the Albanian side; and that it was urgent that the Porte should endeavour to make the latter possible.

Belgrave Square, July 15, 1880.

No. 299.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 15.)

(No. 109.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July* 14, 1880, 6 P.M.

M. DE GIERS tells me that M. de Novikoff says that, as far as words go, the Turks show an inclination to yield, and that the Turkish Ambassador here has spoken to him (M. de Giers) in the same sense. I saw the latter yesterday, and a week had then elapsed without his receiving any communication from his Government, so that whatever he has now said to M. de Giers must be the result of a recent telegram.

No. 300.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 15.)

(No. 102.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July* 15, 1880.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 324.

Baron Haymerle told me two days ago that he was continuing to urge Prince Bismarck to let a German ship or two take part in the demonstration, and that he did not abandon hope of succeeding.

No. 301.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 15.)

(No. 60. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, July* 15, 1880.

YOUR Lordship's No. 263.

Prince Hohenlohe says that Prince Bismarck is now quite willing to join in naval demonstration on Dulcigno coast, and thinks France will not stand back if all the other Powers agree to send a ship.

After communicating with German Admiralty, His Highness finds that there is not a single German man-of-war in the Mediterranean at present, but ships can be sent round as soon as the naval demonstration has been decided upon.

No. 302.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 15, 3·26 A.M.)

(No. 48.) *Scutari, July* 14, 1880, 4·30 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

MONTENEGRIN Minister for Foreign Affairs, by a note just received, confirms the conflict reported in my telegram No. 45 of the 12th. He states that all the Montenegrin outposts in the [?] were attacked, and the one near Gulubovce surprised, ten men being beheaded and six escaping wounded.

Montenegrin Government requests that I should point out to your Lordship the singular coincidence between this attack and the steps taken by the Turkish Minister to put the Montenegrins off their guard by the proposal to surrender peaceably the territory where the outrage has now been perpetrated.

I shall reply to Minister for Foreign Affairs that you are kept fully informed by me of all that is passing here, and I therefore venture to explain to your Lordship that the recent nominations by the Porte of Abeddin and Hussein Pashas are interpreted in Albania as an augury of encouragement to resistance to the wishes of the Great Powers.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 303.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 15, 11 A.M.)

(No. 24.) *Pera, July* 15, 1880, 8 A.M.
(Telegraphic.)

PRIVATE meeting of Commissioners on Tuesday. Financial plan described in my despatch No. 47 approved except in regard to lump sum. It will be proposed as amended on Saturday. Mr. Goschen approves.

No. 304.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 15, 10·59 A.M.)

(No. 25.) *Pera, July* 15, 1880, 8·30 A.M.
(Telegraphic.)

MEETING yesterday. Progress made up to Article 145. Financial clauses [?] again postponed at request of Turkish Commissioners.

No. 305.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 15, 6·40 P.M.)

(No. 118.) *Constantinople, July* 15, 1880, 11·30 A.M.
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram No. 247.

Following information has been received by Turkish Government from Vali of Bagdad, dated the 29th ultimo, respecting attack on English ship "Khalifat" between Amara and Azizié:—

Forty-five persons of the tribes of Amara attacked the ship with guns, wounding captain and one passenger slightly and one of the crew severely. On arriving at Kioun it met a ship from Bagdad, with two battalions. A sufficient number of soldiers from Kioun were embarked on the Bagdad boat and sent to Amara. The military Commander and the soldiers and Sheikhs of these tribes immediately proceeded to the spot, with orders to arrest guilty and restore tranquillity as quickly as possible. Similar orders were given to the Mutessarif of Amara. A boat belonging to the Turkish Company "Oman," with soldiers and cannons, is cruizing between Courna and Amara, to maintain order. The Porte states that it has likewise sent severe orders to the Vali on the subject

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No. 306.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 15, 5·40 P.M.)

(No. 119.) *Constantinople, July* 15, 1880, *noon.*
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram No. 254, I immediately carried out instructions, making personal communication to Prime Minister as well as written communication to Minister for Foreign Affairs, in the sense of your telegram. I also used language strongly commenting on the serious character of a collision initiated by subjects of Sultan, and recalled my warnings as to danger of excitement produced on Albanians by movement said to have been countenanced in the highest quarters.

I said that it would not be unreasonable to believe that the appointment at such a moment of an ex-functionary of the Albanian League as Minister of War had brought the crisis to a head.

Ministers stated that Governor-General of Scutari had telegraphed that the Montenegrins had commenced attack, but I doubt whether they believed him themselves.

No. 307.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 15, 9·24 P.M.)

(No. 120.) *Constantinople, July* 15, 1880, 1·50 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

IN my interview with Minister for Foreign Affairs, reported in my telegram No. 119, he informed me that the Porte's reply to our last Montenegrin note was just finished.

He said that as regards Dulcigno it was possible it might be occupied without resistance if there were a naval demonstration, thus confirming what I had heard, that the Porte had somehow been informed of our plans. But he said the Albanians would in that case undoubtedly attack Montenegro elsewhere. Porte had been negotiating with Albania, and now thought they could peaceably surrender two-thirds of the Corfu arrangement, and give ample compensation for the remaining third in the direction of Dulcigno, but retaining the town itself, which was inhabited by Mussulmans.

I pointed out that the Signatory Powers would never consent to further delay or further negotiations.

His Excellency said the arrangements could be made and carried out in less than twenty days.

I pointed out that belief in their good faith was exhausted, and then inquired (making the reservation that I inquired personally, and not officially) what guarantees could they give of their *bona fides?* For instance, would they surrender Dulcigno provisionally?

His Excellency asked to whom? I replied to the Montenegrins. His Excellency said the Albanians would not understand such a provisional cession, but he gave me the impression that for his [own part] he saw no insuperable objections.

I communicate the conversation to your Lordship for what it is worth, in case ulterior difficulties should upset present plan. The naval demonstration might take place all the same to ensure tranquillity, the point being that the Turks would surrender Dulcigno quietly, and that, if compromise proved impracticable, Dulcigno would be kept.

I am totally uncommitted myself, as I simply made inquiries as to the extent of the guarantees the Porte would give in relation to their own plan. However, I told them I believed the Powers who held the Turks' signature to the April Convention would not entertain [it].

No. 308.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 15, 11·52 P.M.)

(No. 121.) *Constantinople, July* 15, 1880, 3·45 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

THE public is much interested here by arrival of German financier, asked for by the Sultan, and lent by Prince Bismarck. The affair had been kept most [? secret], though German Ambassador told me to-day there had been no mystery. I pressed him as to whether it was true that others are to follow, and gathered from his reply that it was so, perhaps one for the Customs, and so forth. The information did not flow freely. I asked

was it true that German officers were also coming. It appears to be true, but not to command troops so much as to reorganize War Office. I said I hoped they would not appear till it was sure that Turkey would not resist European demands. German Ambassador expressed his agreement with this view.

I am somewhat surprised that Germany keeps these arrangements so quiet. The terms on which I am with Hatzfeldt ought to have made him less reserved. I hinted that this German irruption into Administration here, taken together with their hesitation to join naval demonstration, would not look well. He replied that Germany, he thought by his last advices, would also show her flag in the Adriatic.

No. 309.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 15, 6·30 P.M.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.)
Athens, July 15, 1880, 12·30 P.M.

YOUR despatch No. 97 received.

All my colleagues except Russian and German have received instructions to sign collective note. Former is instructed, however, to act as latter, who has not received instructions to sign, or draft of note, which he expects by post. On the pressing solicitation of my French colleague and myself he has telegraphed to Berlin to ask if he may sign note, draft of which received.

French Government are very pressing that note should be delivered at Constantinople and Athens as soon as possible.

No. 310.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 276.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, July 15, 1880, 7·15 P.M.

YOURS No. 60.

Express to German Government our satisfaction at this confirmation of the European concert.

No. 311.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received July 15, 9·10 P.M.)

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.)
Paris, July 15, 1880, 7·45 P.M.

YOURS No. 271.

Notwithstanding all I can say, M. de Freycinet sticks to his two conditions. He says that public opinion in France would disapprove of his committing himself about Montenegro unless the Powers engaged explicitly to act in the same way about Greece, and that he should be deemed unjustifiably imprudent if he allowed France to take any definite measure from which even one other Power held aloof.

(Secret.)
He admits, confidentially, that what would be specially considered imprudent would be his sending any French force unless Germany sent an equal force.

No. 312.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 15, 9·30 P.M.)

(No. 16. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)
Athens, July 15, 1880, 5·30 P.M.

M. TRICOUPI is without recent news from the King, or any information of His Majesty's intention as to signing the law for the mobilization of the army. He thinks it imperative to make preparations at once to put military forces of Greece on a footing to take possession of the territory to be ceded. King appears to be in favour of delaying these preparations.

Prime Minister will write to-day to His Majesty that it is necessary there should be complete accord of views between him and King; and if latter cannot adopt view [?] of his Minister, he is determined to resign.

No. 313.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 75.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, July 15, 1880.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 159 of the 18th ultimo, inclosing a copy of the *note verbale* which you have addressed to the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs, assuring him that in the new arrangement for rectifying the frontier Her Majesty's Government will keep the interest of Montenegro as much as possible in view, and I approve the language of the note as well as the general terms of your communications with the Prince on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 314.

Earl Granville to Mr. Stephen.

(No. 40.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, July 15, 1880.

I HAVE received your despatches No. 291 of the 15th and No. 295 of the 19th ultimo, reporting the conversation you have had with Aleko Pasha respecting the occurrences in the Kirdjali district, and the changes in the constitution of the Aïdos Commission, and I approve the language which you held to his Excellency on these occasions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 315.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 385.)
My Lord,
Foreign Office, July 15, 1880.

I HAVE to request your Excellency to express to Prince Hohenlohe the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt from your telegram of this day, No. 60, that the German Government have given a further confirmation to the European concert on the Eastern question by consenting to join in the projected naval demonstration on the coast of Albania.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 316.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 329.)
My Lord,
Foreign Office, July 15, 1880.

I CALLED Prince Labanow's attention to-day to two telegraphic reports which have appeared in the "Daily Telegraph" relative to a supposed intention on the part of the Prince of Bulgaria to endeavour to annex a portion of Eastern Roumelia to that Principality, and to the alleged conveyance of Russian non-commissioned officers and soldiers to Rustchuck on board the Bulgarian flotilla. Copies of these telegrams are inclosed for your Excellency's information.

I also read to the Prince a despatch, of which a copy is annexed, addressed by the Acting Vice-Consul at Rustchuck to Mr. Lascelles, reporting that 8,000 Berdan rifles and a large quantity of ammunition, picks, and shovels had been brought to that place from Reni by two steamers, one of which, a paddle-wheel vessel of large size, called the "Golubtchik," and carrying a new flag, has recently been presented to the Prince by the Russian Government.

Prince Lobanow promised to telegraph at once to St. Petersburgh for information as to the truth of these reports. He said that the Prince had received encouragement to hope for the union, that the King of Italy had proposed a toast to that effect, and that Lord Beaconsfield had told the Prince that he expected the union would take place as soon as he left office. The advice given by the Emperor of Russia to the Prince of Bulgaria was that he should remain quiet; and he expressed a belief that the Prince intends to act upon that advice, a belief in which he had recently been confirmed by the language as to the Prince's views held to him by Prince Louis Battenberg.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 317.

Earl Granville to M. Contostavlos.

Foreign Office, July 15, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your confidential note of the 10th instant, relative to the advice given by Her Majesty's Government that Greece should abstain from any hostile demonstration against Turkey until the answer of the Porte to the identic note communicating the award of the Berlin Conference has been received, and in reply, I have to state that Her Majesty's Government have given the best advice in their power, that they do not desire to force that advice upon the Greek Government, but I should be obliged if you would let me know whether, in the opinion of your Government, if the Porte refuses its consent to cession of territory, and if the measures the Greek Government propose, are immediately taken, Greece will be able to take possession of the new frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 318.

Memorandum by Sir E. Hertslet on the Presence of an Albanian Emissary at Athens in 1847.

WE have no copy of this petition in our Archives; but it is evident, from the following extracts of despatches from Athens and Constantinople written about the period, that an Emissary from the Albanian insurgents was then in communication with the Greek Government.

The petition is dated the 15th August, 1847, and on the 3rd October of that year, Sir E. Lyons, then Her Majesty's Minister at Athens, wrote a private letter to Lord Palmerston (which was made official) in which he said:—

Sir E. Lyons, Private, October 3, 1847.

"King Otho's having appointed General Tzavellas Prime Minister is considered by His Majesty's subjects tantamount to writing a declaration against the constitution on the walls of his Palace. I believe, however, that His Majesty has been in some degree influenced by Tzavellas being the person who was always looked upon by him and Coletti as the Commander of the forces which are to carry him in triumph to Constantinople. The very night Coletti died an Emissary from the Albanian insurgent Djalika arrived at Athens on a mission to Coletti, and Tzavellas and he have been in constant communication with each other ever since. The defeat of the insurgents in Albania, and the civil war in Greece, convince him that the invasion of Turkey from Greece must be postponed; but he urges Tzavellas to give him 300,000 cartridges, flints, lead, &c., in order that the insurgents may be able to maintain themselves in the mountains till the spring. As M. Persiany and I are aware of this mission, we shall not have much difficulty in defeating its object; but it shows how impossible it is for Greece to prosper so long as her Sovereign's thoughts are ever on the other side of the frontier; and now more than ever because he allowed himself to be persuaded by Coletti that by conquest he should get rid of the Constitution."

On the 16th of the same month (October) Sir E. Lyons wrote an official despatch to Lord Palmerston, in which he said:—

Sir E. Lyons, No. 120, October 16, 1847.

"I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a letter which I have this day received from M. Glarakis, in which he declares total ignorance of any circumstance that could have occasioned Aali Effendi's note of the 20th September last to the Representatives of the three Powers, apprizing them of an Emissary from the rebels in Albania being in Athens, and in communication with the Greek Ministers. It is nevertheless perfectly true that a certain Stefo Izalis, charged with a mission from the rebel Chief, Gierlcca, to M. Coletti, arrived at Athens at the moment of that Minister's death, and that on learning that event, he addressed himself to M. Colletti's successor, General Tzavellas, and was in communication with him until the reverses of the insurgents rendered his mission hopeless, and then he left Athens."

The circumstances under which the note from Aali Effendi here alluded to was addressed to the Representatives of the three Powers are explained in the following despatch from Lord Cowley, then Her Majesty's Representative at Constantinople, dated the 27th September, 1847.

Lord Cowley, September 27, 1847.

"The French Ambassador and the Russian Envoy have received despatches from their colleagues at Athens requesting them, at the demand of the Greek Government, to call the attention of the Porte to the vicinity of Generals Grivas and Griziottes to the Greek frontier, and to request that they may be transferred to the interior of Turkey.

"Sir Edmund Lyons having informed me that an Emissary from the rebels in Albania was in the Greek capital, and in communication with the Greek Ministers, and that he was endeavouring to obtain supplies of ammunition to enable the rebels to keep the field during the winter, I have informed Aali Effendi confidentially of the circumstance, and have advised him to address a note to the Representatives of the Protecting Powers, informing them that he is aware of the presence of this Emissary at Athens, but leaving it to them to address the Greek Government or not on the subject, as they may deem it advisable.

"Although at the present moment it would hardly comport with the Porte's dignity to make any request, even for the dismissal of a rebel Emissary from Athens, I think it very desirable that the Greek Ministers should know that the Porte is perfectly aware of the reception which the Emissary has met with from them."

The following is a copy of the note from Aali Effendi:—

Aali Effendi to Lord Cowley, September 27, 1847.

"D'après des avis certains que la Sublime Porte vient de recevoir, Zalica, qui a levé l'étendard de la révolte en Albanie, a expédié un de ses partisans à Athènes pour demander des secours au Gouvernement Grec; et même il a demandé 300,000 cartouches et d'autres munitions. La Sublime Porte aime à croire que cette demande ne sera pas accueillie par le Gouvernement de Grèce. Elle pense, toutefois, que porter à temps et officiellement ce fait à la connaissance des Grandes Puissances, ses amies, c'est prévenir le retour de pareils mauvais procédés, et c'est dans cette vue que je m'empresse de vous informer de ce qui vient d'avoir lieu."

(Signed) E. HERTSLET.

Foreign Office, July 15, 1880.

No. 319.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 61. Political.)

Salonica, July 1, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Cavalla relative to the state of affairs in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 319.

Vice-Consul Pecchioli to Consul-General Blunt.

Cavalla, le 31 *Mai,* 1880.

M. le Consul-Général,

JE me fais un devoir de porter à votre connaissance que depuis mon dernier Rapport la Province de Serres et surtout les districts de Zihna et Alestratti qui, depuis quelque temps, étaient les foyers de brigandages Bulgares, sont bien plus tranquilles, grâce aux efforts des troupes Ottomanes qui, dans cette occasion, ont fait leur devoir.

Cependant, dans ces localités malheureusement éprouvées par les fléaux des insurrec-

tions et de la disette, les autorités civiles continuent à administrer le pays d'une manière fort malhonnête et prétendent de percevoir les impôts même dans les villages où on a eu à déplorer des morts de faim!

Les récoltes qui s'annoncent très-favorables, soulageront d'ici à quelques semaines les souffrances de ce pays, désolé par la famine et la mauvaise, cruelle, et insouciante Administration.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) DR. PECCHIOLI.

No. 320.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 62. Political.)
Salonica, July 1, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 45, Political, and dated the 1st May last, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a further Report from Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth on the subject of the apostasy of the Christian girl Vassiliki, of Tricalla, in Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 320.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Consul-General Blunt.

Larissa, May 26, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 28th ultimo, I have now further to report that on the 24th instant the Christian girl from Tricalla went through the formalities of becoming a Mahommedan, by repeating aloud, after the Mufti, in the presence of the principal Medjliss, the necessary Arabic sentence of the Koran, and by having her name altered from Vassiliki to Hedayet. The Greek Archbishop did not attend the Court either in person or by representative, and there was consequently only one Christian member present on the occasion.

I should state that during the beginning of this month his Eminence addressed a written demand to the authorities, desiring them to send the girl to the Archbishopric, or to return her to her parents, as she has not yet attained years of discretion. This they refused to do, maintaining that the law prescribed the age at puberty.

His Eminence further intimated to them in a subsequent letter that the conversion of the girl from Christianity to Islamism will be illegal if not effected in his presence.

The Turkish Governor, however, invited him several times to meet the Medjliss, in order to attend to this case, but his Eminence on each of the appointed days and hours purposely absented himself from Larissa, and thus, the patience of the Court having been exhausted, they made the girl a Mahommedan without his officiating in the matter.

I need scarcely add that both the Mutessarif and the Archbishop acted throughout this affair on instructions received from their respective Chiefs at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 321.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 63. Political.)
Salonica, July 1, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of two despatches which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, on the subject of the Turkish forces in Thessaly and Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 321.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Goschen.

Salonica, June 29, 1880.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Military Attaché at Constantinople having requested me to furnish him with further information respecting the number, &c., of the Ottoman troops in Thessaly, I applied to Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth for a Report on the subject.

I have now the honour to transmit herewith copy of that gentleman's Report, with one inclosure, and beg leave to call your Excellency's attention to his remarks respecting the opinion current in Thessaly with regard to the Albanians recruited for police purposes in these provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 321.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Consul-General Blunt.

Larissa, June 23, 1880.

Sir,

ON the 16th instant I received from you from Therapia the following telegram:—

"Please send me as soon as possible detailed statement of the numbers and dispositions of Turkish troops in Thessaly."

In supplying you with the required information, I beg here to make a few explanatory remarks.

The annexed Tables contain particulars of the troops in Thessaly as well as those stationed in Catterina, now also included under the military command of Larissa. Nos. 1, 2, and 3 comprise respectively the infantry, artillery, and cavalry, and No. 4 a summary of the whole.

In my Report dated the 29th October, 1879, I made known to you that all the redif battalions were about to be disbanded.

This has since been effected in their entirety, and not only as regards the men of the "Moukadems," Tatis and Salis, but also such of the nizams who had served their time, without the deficiency having as yet been substituted by fresh enrolments.

It hence arises that although the battalions of nizams are the same in respect to numbers of men there is an inconsistency in my present Table in comparison with the one I furnished eight months ago.

It will also be perceived that in the annexed estimate the numbers of battalions are by two less than they were at that time, that is, instead of twenty-eight there are now twenty-six.

This is entirely owing to the two battalions of frontier guards noted in my previous Report having lately, through insubordination, obtained their discharge.

I have included in the Table of Infantry some 300 Tosca-Albanians, irregulars, now in the district of Catterina. This new levy of foot, called Gendarmery, have been raised, the authorities assure me, to put down brigandage in those parts; and yet it is generally believed here, by those who ought to know, that the object in collecting these men there is purely political, that, in short, they are intended to cause trouble in the event of a European Commission coming into the province for the demarcation of the new Greco-Turkish frontier. Be this as it may, these soldiers are at present doing more harm to the villagers than the brigands themselves, by feeding and quartering on them, and by abusing, ill-treating, and robbing the poor people.

As regards the general condition of the troops, I may briefly say that they are very badly paid, fed, clothed, and lodged. They are naturally discontented with their present neglected condition, and yet their behaviour, with very few exceptions, is most orderly.

Some of the officers, however, who are competent enough to form a judgment on the thoughts and feelings of their men, are of opinion that, notwithstanding their exemplary conduct, there is not a man of them who is not ready to desert, if he could only do so with impunity.

The recent revolt (owing to arrears of pay), and the subsequent disbandment of the frontier guards (which were composed of Tosca-Albanians) tend to serve as an example to the rest; and I am told it is a delicate and difficult task, especially along the border to prevent other battalions from following suit. As it is, whenever an opportunity is afforded, a number of them individually escape into Greece, and return to their homes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 321.

(Table I.)—*Infantry.*

Station.	The Number of the—			Strength in Men.	Remarks.
	Battalion.	Regiment.	Army Corps.		
Larissa	1	5	5	700	2nd Company Pioneers.
	3	..	1	150	
Volo	2	5	1	700	
	3	1	2	500	
Armyro	2	2	5	600	
	1	6	2	500	
	3	2	5	700	
	1	2	2	450	
	1	3	2	500	
Pharsala	1	17	1	450	
Domoko	3	3	2	600	
	3	6	5	700	Vanguard battalion.
	..	6	5	600	Ditto.
Carditza and Fener ..	..	3	5	650	Ditto.
	..	6	2	600	Ditto.
	..	3	2	700	
	2	17	1	500	
Tricalla	2	6	1	700	Vanguard battalion.
	..	2	5	700	Ditto.
	..	1	5	650	
	1	2	2	700	
Allassona	3	11	1	400	
	2	3	3	750	
Catterina	..	3	..	300	Vanguard battalion, Albanian Irregulars.
	..	..	..	700	
	5	3	3	700	
Dereli	1	3	3	450	
Aghia	2	3	3		

(Table II.)—*Artillery.*

Station.	Number of the—		Men.	Remarks.
	Battery.	Army Corps.		
Larissa	1	3	150	Field Artillery.
	2	2	150	Ditto.
	3	3	130	Ditto.
	4	3	140	Ditto.
	2	1	150	Ditto.
	1	1	150	Ditto.
	4	1	150	Ditto.
	2	1	100	Mountain Reserve Artillery.
	14	1	100	Mountain Artillery.
	6	3	140	Garrison Artillerymen.
	..	..	170	Ditto.
Volo	..	..	40	Ditto.
Armyro	..	..	150	Mountain Artillery.
	2	1	100	Ditto.
Domoko	2	5	60	Garrison Artillerymen.
	..	..	100	Mountain Artillery.
Carditza and Fener ..	5	3	130	Garrison Artillerymen.
	..	..	170	Ditto.
Tricalla	..	..		

(Table III.)—*Cavalry.*

Station.	Number of the—		Strength in Men and Horses.	Remarks.
	Regiment.	Army Corps.		
Larissa	1	3	350	Serving in the Larissa, Volo, Armyro, and Velestino districts.
Turnavo	3	3	650	Serving in Turnavo, Larissa, and Allassona districts.
Tricalla	1	1	400	Serving in the Tricalla, Carditza, and Domoko districts.

(Table IV.)—*Summary of Troops in Thessaly.*

Description.	Battalions.	Batteries.	Regiments.	Strength in Men.
Infantry—				
Nizam	26	..	..	15,550
Pioneers	..	..	..	150
Irregulars	..	..	..	300
Total	..	..	..	16,300
Artillery—				
Field	..	7	..	1,020
Mountain	..	5	..	550
Garrison	..	..	..	710
Total	..	12	..	2,280
Cavalry—				
Regulars	..	..	3	1,400

Inclosure 4 in No. 321.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Goschen.

Salonica, July 1, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 29th ultimo, relative to the Ottoman forces in Thessaly, I have the honour to further report to your Excellency that two Government transports, viz., the "Esseri Djedid," and "Mukbiri Surur," arrived here yesterday morning from Constantinople and Gallipoli with 6 batteries of horse-artillery on board.

These batteries, with their full complements of men and horses, and a considerable quantity of ammunition, are being landed, and will be sent in the course of next week to Monastir, the head-quarters of the 3rd Ordou (Army Corps).

The above-named transports are to wait here to embark and convey to Constantinople some 1,600 time-expired men from the Divisional commands of Salonica and Cossova. These men have been replaced by this year's conscripts drawn from the several districts of Macedonia.

The Divisional command of Salonica, which extends over the whole vilayet, with the exception of the district of Catterina, does not now comprise more than 11 battalions of infantry, 2 batteries of field-artillery, and 1 regiment of cavalry.

I hope I shall soon be enabled to furnish reliable information respecting the exact numbers and stations of these troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 322.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 64. Political.) *Salonica, July 2, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch with one inclosure, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, on the subject of the return of Turkish refugees to their homes in Bulgaria and East Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 322.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Goschen.

Salonica, July 2, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Excellency, copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth, giving an account of an interesting interview he has had with some Turkish refugees in Thessaly homeward bound to Eski-Zaghra in Eastern Roumelia.

Since my return here I have spoken with several Turkish refugees, who told me that they are encouraged by the most recent accounts they have received to return to their abandoned homes.

Several of these poor people have in consequence already gone back to Dubnitza and other districts in that Principality, and many more, I am assured, are anxious and preparing to return likewise.

But I regret having to report that this movement has been seriously obstructed by the following outrages, the details of which I give as published in the "Corsova Gazette," for they agree in the most important points with those furnished me by a person who has recently visited the spot.

A number of refugees from Bulgaria, in the Sandjak of Useup, assembled at Palanka with the intention of returning to their country; and on the Bulgarian Government consenting to receive them they obtained permission to depart, and provisions for fifteen or twenty days from the Turkish authorities.

On the 23rd ultimo they left Palanka for Kustendil, but on the following night, when at an hour's distance from a place called "Vedowa Bagherdan," were attacked by Bulgarian brigands, who killed five men and two women, wounded seventeen others—men, women, and children—and plundered their cattle and other property!

On this being known, an inquiry was at once instituted at Palanka, and measures taken against the brigands, several of whom have been captured, and will be tried by the local Turkish Court.

My informant* assured me that the Bulgarian authorities are in no way responsible for this massacre, which he declares was deliberately planned and carried out by Bulgarian villagers on this side of the border, principally from districts of Palanka and Kotchana.

But be this as it may, these outrages will undoubtedly discourage many refugees from returning, especially as the country all along both sides of the border continues to be infested by bands of marauders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 322.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Consul-General Blunt.

Larissa, May 26, 1880.

Sir,

IN taking yesterday an evening walk with another gentleman we saw a party of men, women, and children tented out in the vicinity of the town.

Their general cleanly appearance attracted our attention, and, supposing them to be

* A Turkish Bey of Kustendil.

a superior class of gypsies, we advanced towards the encampment in order to collect some particulars I wanted about their mode of life, manners, and customs.

On drawing near, however, the women quickly veiled themselves, and stopping, therefore, at a little distance off, I beckoned to some of the men to approach.

We were soon surrounded by a number of tall, lean-looking men and rough, barefooted little children, dressed in very scanty worn-out and patched-up clothing. They happened to be Turkish refugees from the district of Ishi-Saghra, now part of the autonomous province of Eastern Roumelia. I had a long talk with them, noting down as nearly as possible my questions and their answers, which were something to this effect:—

Q. How many of you are there in Thessaly?—*A.* Six families, consisting of eight men, ten women, and five children.

Q. When did you leave your homes?—*A.* During the war.

Q. What induced you to do so?—*A.* The Bulgarians would not have us there; they frightened us away by burning our houses and killing our fellow-villagers, and by committing daily atrocities on young and old, male and female, without distinction.

Q. How is it that your party managed to escape with their lives?—*A.* The Russian cavalry rescued us from their hands.

Q. Did the Russians treat you kindly?—Yes; while they remained in the village there was no fear, but when they left us the Bulgarians threatened to come again, so we fled to the mountains in the direction of Monastir. We wandered wearily south, Sir, until we settled at last near Tricalla.

Q. How long did you remain there?—*A.* Some three months or so.

Q. Where are you going to now?—*A.* Back to Ishi-Saghra.

Q. Are you not still afraid of the Bulgarians?—*A.* No, Sir, for we have received letters from our co-religionists there, telling us that there is peace, prosperity, and happiness now in our country, much more so than there is here, Sir, and that all suffering is at an end, and that taxes are very light, amounting to only 2 medjids a-year; so, with God's help, we hope soon to be among our own fields and gardens again.

Q. But how are you going to return; have you any means for the journey?—*A.* We have horses, but no money, and we shall have to beg our way through somehow or other.

Q. Does not the Turkish Government render you any assistance in your wanderings?—*A.* None whatever; some five months ago they supplied our families with breadstuff, but now even that has been stopped.

Q. There are a number of rich Turkish Beys here; have they not done something for you?—*A.* Nothing, Sir; we have walked the streets of Tricalla and Larissa until our feet were sore; we have knocked at the doors of the rich Beys; we have begged in the name of Allah for a morsel of bread, but little or none did they give us. It is the Christians who keep our souls and bodies together; it is they who sympathize with us in our misfortune; it is mostly they who listen to our appeal for help in the name of Christ and the Virgin Mary.

I was rather surprised to hear this from a Mahommedan, and much more so from one whose frank, open, vivid expression of countenance clearly indicated that he felt and believed what he said.

As it was getting dark, I dropped a small gold coin for the children into one of the little boy's hands, and whilst he and his playmates danced with joy, and the men's faces flushed with gratitude, we left them amid a torrent of blessings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 323.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 65. Political.) *Salonica, July 4, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of two despatches which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, the first relating to the Albanian movement, and the second to the assassination of Lieutenant-General Hassan Pasha, the Commander of the Turkish forces in the district of Yeni-Bazaar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 323.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Goschen.

Salonica, July 2, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE been assured that 200 Albanian soldiers, whose term of service in the divisional commands of Salonica and Kossovo had expired last month, have hastened back as soon as they were discharged to their homes in Epirus, in obedience to a summons they received from the Headmen of their villages, to be ready for the defence of their "Vatan" (Fatherland).

In this connection I should also report that Yahya Bey, an Albanian, of Premet, in Epirus, and one of the personal Aide-de-camps of the Sultan, arrived at this place by the same steamer I came in, and at once started for the interior, for the purpose, it is now rumoured by the Greek party, of organizing levies for the Albanian League.

I, however, heard nothing from him during our passage confirming this rumour. He merely told me that he had obtained with great difficulty one month's leave of absence to visit his family.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 323.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Goschen.

Salonica, July 4, 1880.

Sir,

YESTERDAY afternoon I sent your Excellency a telegram worded as follows:—

"Recent intelligence from Yeni-Bazaar states that Mahommedan inhabitants there have resisted attempt of Turkish authorities to disarm them, and have assassinated Lieutenant-General Hassan Pasha, the Commander of the forces in that district."

The authorities here are not yet in possession of the full particulars of this untoward event, but from all I have heard since I sent the above telegram, it appears that Hassan Pasha, on learning that the numerous Bosnian and Albanian refugees in Yeni-Bazaar were meditating further incursions into the neighbouring territories, endeavoured to frustrate these proceedings by ordering a general disarmament.

This measure gave great offence to the people, who openly resisted it, and it was in trying to quell the disturbances which ensued that the Pasha lost his life.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 324.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 66. Political.)

Salonica, July 5, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch, with one inclosure, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, on the subject of the non-admission of Christians as tithe-collectors in the Vilayet of Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 324.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Göschen.

Salonica, July 5, 1880.

Sir,

THE Greek community here bitterly complain of the "Ashar Mümouri" (Administrator of Tithes) in the Vilayet of Salonica refusing to employ Christians as collectors of these taxes.

This matter has been taken up very warmly by the Greek Archbishop of Salonica, as

your Excellency will learn from the inclosed copy of a letter which his Eminence has addressed to the Acting Governor-General.

The latter has informed me, in answer to my inquiries, that although he disapproves of the action of the "Ashar Mümouri," it is not in his power to interfere, as that official is only dependent on the "Malieh Nazori" (Minister of Finance).

This decision on the part of the Tithe Administrator is all the more strange—blameworthy, I may say—as last year a considerable number of Christians were employed as tithe collectors by the Local Government, and performed their duties as such in a very satisfactory manner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 324.

The Greek Archbishop to the Acting Governor-General.

(Translation.)

Salonica, June $\frac{15}{27}$, 1880.

Sir,

MANY just complaints have been recently submitted to me on account of the exclusion, I know not why, of the Christian element in the appointments of the tithe officials, in opposition to the equality proclaimed by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan.

This injustice has vexed the Christian community here, the more that while in previous years some Christians, though not proportionately, were, nevertheless, appointed, at the present time, when the Imperial Government, making no distinction between Mussulmans and non-Mussulmans, is proceeding to the promised reforms, the Christian element is entirely excluded, not even the ten whom I designated only, in comparison with so many Mussulmans, being accepted. And having already made verbally to you the needful representations on this head, I now proceed to call your attention in writing to this important subject, and to beg you to obtain as soon as possible the redress of this wrong.

Otherwise, should the reverse of this happen, I energetically protest, and am in the unpleasant necessity of announcing that I shall proceed to take the necessary steps which the matter demands.

Receive, &c.
(Signed) KALLINIKOS.

No. 325.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 600.)

Paris, July 14, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH my despatch No. 588 of the 11th instant, I had the honour to send your Lordship a copy of a letter which I had written on that day to M. de Freycinet, in order to correct a mistake into which M. Challemel-Lacour, the French Ambassador in London, appeared to have fallen concerning the communication to the Porte, suggested by your Lordship with regard to the Montenegrin frontier.

I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a note from M. de Freycinet, saying that he had, from the moment that they had been communicated to him by me, in obedience to your Lordship's orders, correctly understood the terms of your suggestion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 325.

M. de Freycinet to Lord Lyons.

Paris, le 12 *Juillet*, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

VOUS m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire pour m'exprimer la crainte qu'un malentendu ne se soit élevé à propos des termes de la récente proposition de Lord Granville, relative aux affaires de Monténégro.

Je m'empresse d'assurer votre Excellence qu'aucune confusion ne s'est produite dans

mon esprit à la suite des indications précises qu'elle a bien voulu me donner; j'ai compris que l'intervention éventuelle des Puissances suggérée par le Gouvernement de la Reine devait avoir exclusivement en vue la mise à exécution de l'arrangement concédant aux Monténégrins le District de Dulcigno.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) C. DE FREYCINET.

No. 326.

Sir L. Simmons to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received July* 16.)

July 15, 1880.

Dear Lord Tenterden,

IN compliance with the request contained in your note of the 12th instant, I submit, for Lord Granville's information, the following summary of the arguments which may be used in support of the award of the Berlin Conference:—

1. The conformity of the line to the spirit and letter of the Berlin Protocol.

By the 13th Protocol Congress expressed their opinion that the rectification of the frontier should follow the Valleys of the Salamyrias and Kalamas.

"Valley" is a vague expression; but any frontier will be within the letter and spirit of the Protocol which does not extend beyond the basins of the two rivers named.

The object of the rectification having been, as stated in the Protocol, to annex to Greece populations that would be for her a source of strength, while they are but one of weakness to Turkey, it became necessary to seek within the limits of the basins of the two rivers a line which should fulfil this intention.

The annexed map shows the basins of the rivers coloured grey; any line, therefore, that extends beyond the limits of the grey tint, either to the south or north, would not be within the letter of the Protocol.

It will thus be seen that Prevesa, Arta, and the district around Margariti, which is largely inhabited by Mussulmans, are, by the letter of the Protocol, ceded to Greece.

As the Salamyrias flows for a great portion of its course through a fertile and populous plain having numerous fords, it partakes rather of the nature of a means of communication than of that of a barrier between two countries, and is, therefore, entirely unsuited for a frontier line; and, if adopted, would only lead to border difficulties.

If the southern boundary of the basin had been adopted as the frontier, the whole of Thessaly would have remained to Turkey with its population, nine-tenths of whom are Greek. This would evidently have been contrary to the spirit of the Protocol. As no intermediate line within the basin was suited for a frontier, its northern boundary was selected from the Pindus range on the west to Mount Olympus on the east, and thence by the shortest and best line to the Ægean Sea.

This line divides all the passes between the two countries, giving no military advantage to either, and establishes, for some distance near Mount Olympus, an impassable frontier, easy to watch and guard.

In the basin of the Kalamas the conditions are different. The river itself forms an excellent frontier, being in a rocky chasm, very rapid and impassable throughout a great part of its course. It is, therefore, easy to watch. It does not divide the populations exactly according to race or creed, nor can any line be found in the district that will do so, but four-fifths of the inhabitants in the districts to be ceded are non-Mussulman, and the advantages of a good frontier, presenting a material obstacle throughout a great part of its length, are so evident that they could not be overlooked, and led to the decision to adopt the thalweg of the Kalamas from the sea to its source near Han Kalibachi.

It may be observed that the southern limit of the basin of the Kalamas would have been altogether unsuitable, as it presents no well defined line, and would have divided the populations in such a manner as to have invited troubles.

From the source of the Kalamas to the basin of the Salamyrias no suitable line presented itself except the watershed, which can be easily defined upon the ground, dividing the Voiussa and Haliacmon and their tributaries on the one side from those of the Kalamas, Arta, and Aspropotamos on the other.

The line so traced is a just and loyal interpretation of the 13th Protocol, and accords both with the letter and spirit thereof.

On this point I would refer to the printed Report of the Technical Committee, in which the question is discussed in greater detail.

2. The consideration of the strategical interests of Turkey in fixing the frontier.

The position within the ceded territory, which is of the highest strategical importance, is the knot of mountains around Metzovo, where the most frequented roads, or rather tracks (for no such thing as a well-constructed road, in a European sense, exists in that part of the country), between Macedonia, Thessaly, and Epirus meet.

This position is to be ceded to Greece, and constitutes a serious strategical loss to Turkey. If held strongly by Greece, it will make it difficult for the Turks to carry on active operations in Northern Epirus, the defence of which will be left to the Albanian population, supported by assistance which can only be sent by sea, or by a very circuitous and indifferent route to the north.

The strategical position of Metzovo will be ceded to Greece; but, in making this concession, it has been rendered as little injurious as possible by adopting the principle, that the new frontier should follow the watershed, thus giving to Greece the entire road from Thessaly to Janina and Epirus, and dividing the passes which lead from Turkey into Greece.

3. How far has the desire of Her Majesty's Government, that there should be no forcible annexation to Greece of an unwilling Mussulman population in such numbers as to be a source of danger and insecurity, been realized?

So far as can be ascertained from statistics which are notoriously imperfect, it may, I think, be assumed that the whole territory to be ceded comprises from 500,000 to 600,000 inhabitants, of whom about one-seventh are Mussulman. These are principally to be found in the larger towns and in the districts immediately to the south of, and adjoining, the Kalamas.

No doubt it is objectionable that Mussulman populations should be annexed against their will to Greece; but in the larger towns they are generally in the minority, and in the districts referred to they are reported to have but few relations with their Albanian brethren north of the Kalamas.

It would seem only reasonable and right, however, with a view to facilitate their transfer to Greece, and to prevent their becoming a source of danger and insecurity, that they should be secured in their property and in the exercise of their religion. In fact, it would be unreasonable to expect the Sultan to make this sacrifice of territory out of deference to the unanimous award of the Great Powers without some guarantee that such would be the case, which, considering the mistrust that exists between the rival populations in the Balkan Peninsula, will be considered of little value unless secured in some manner by the Powers. The example of what has taken place in other provinces, and the belief that the Greek population look forward to the spoliation of the Albanian proprietors, must tend to prevent the Turks accepting the award.

Possibly, a promise on the part of the guaranteeing Powers to watch over the interests of the proprietors would satisfy the Turks, and suffice to compel the Greek Government not to interfere unjustly with them. The Powers, by simply withholding their protection, and thus allowing the Turkish Government to set their fleet in motion, would always possess the means of bringing pressure on the Greek Government without embroiling themselves in the quarrel.

The possibility of a Turkish squadron appearing off the Piræus would prove a strong incentive to the Greeks to keep faith.

If secured in their possessions it would be in the interest of the landed proprietors, including the present Minister for Foreign Affairs, to encourage a peaceful solution of the question, in order to prevent the devastation of their property either by war or brigandage.

Having thus answered the three questions put to me by your Lordship, I proceed to add, as requested, such statements as occur to me which may possibly be useful to induce the Porte to accept the award.

1. The 13th Protocol was precise in stating that the line described in it should indicate to Turkey the measure of the intentions of Europe, and to Greece the limits beyond which she cannot be allowed to go.

In the same way as the objections raised by Turkey to the cession of Prevesa, which is outside the limits of the valleys of the two rivers, could not be entertained as not coming up to the measure of the intentions of Europe; so, on the other hand, the demand made by Greece for territory to the north of the basins of those rivers could not be entertained, as being outside the limits beyond which, according to the intentions of Europe, she cannot be allowed to go.

Turkey, as stated to me by the Ottoman Ambassador in Berlin, apprehends that the

present concession will not be final, and that, as soon as granted, agitations will be set on foot by Greece, having for their object a still further extension of territory.

To judge from the general tenour of opinion in Berlin, these apprehensions are not groundless.

It would appear, therefore, in the interest of peace, that Greece should be made clearly to understand that the intentions of Europe, as solemnly expressed in the 13th Protocol, and enforced against Turkey, are equally binding upon her, and that if agitations, with the object of extending her limits, should be commenced, she will forfeit the protection she has hitherto enjoyed.

2. War on the part of Turkey to resist the award would be suicidal.

If the Great Powers enforce the award by war, it is evident that Turkey must yield after suffering further losses in men and money, and possibly in additional territory, and in other ways which may not improbably lead to the extinction of the Sultan's Government.

If Greece alone go to war, backed by the goodwill and moral support of the Powers, it is more than probable that the Bulgarians, who have made considerable preparations, are well armed, and provided with experienced officers and non-commissioned officers from Russia, and with warlike stores from the same source, will seize the opportunity and endeavour to obtain an extension of territory by absorbing Eastern Roumelia and other adjoining districts to the south.

In this case, if the Great Powers deny to Turkey the use of the sea for transporting men and materials of war, it would be very difficult, if not impossible, for the Porte to sustain a war in Thessaly and Epirus by troops and stores which would have to be moved by land from Constantinople or Asia Minor, and her means for prosecuting it would be limited to those available within Macedonia and Albania. These would soon be exhausted by simultaneous operations in Thessaly and Epirus, and on the Montenegrin and Bulgarian frontiers, and possibly by hostilities on the frontiers of Servia, who will naturally look for some advantage in the scramble in which each province will be seeking for an extension of territory.

To judge from experience of the past, such a war would be terribly destructive of life and property; although the Turks might meet with some advantage at first, they must eventually succumb if the power to use their ships be forbidden them, and it is not improbable in such a case that they would be entirely expelled from Europe or exterminated, unless Europe intervened in the cause of humanity.

The contemplation of such a state of things ought, I think, to have great weight in inducing the Porte to accept the award.

If the events as here shadowed should occur, the further partition of Turkey and the ownership of Constantinople and the Straits will become urgent questions, demanding immediate solution.

I cannot but think that these considerations, if placed before the Sultan, must have weight in pressing a solution by which alone, with the best will and most earnest endeavours of his best friends, he can hope to continue his government.

3. In my despatch to Lord Odo Russell of the 30th June I ventured to point to the following considerations, which I conceive ought also to have weight with the Porte in coming to a decision:—

Turkey cannot expect to organize her internal administration and finances while occupied with questions of this nature, and unless she does so organize, ruin and destruction must soon come upon her.

On this point I would observe, that from letters I have received, I am informed that in the bazaars of Asia Minor, his Mussulman subjects begin to speak openly of the Sultan with disrespect—a phase in the history of Mahommedanism which is not only dangerous, but unprecedented. If His Majesty lose the allegiance of his Mahommedan subjects, his régime cannot last.

The only way of checking this evil is by the introduction of an improved administration.

4. If the *status quo* on the Greek frontier could continue, the Porte would be weakened financially as well as materially, by the necessity of maintaining a considerable military force there at all times during peace; in the event of war, this necessity would operate most injuriously, in a similar way to what occurred during the last war, when a large portion of her forces was prevented from acting on the Danube by their detention in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The possibility of reducing the garrisons on the frontiers of Greece will, however, depend upon the determination of Europe, that her intentions as to the limits beyond which Greece cannot be allowed to go be acted up to *bonâ fide*.

5. Lastly, the fact that Russia pressed upon the Conference a more extensive concession of territory and population (involving the important Mussulman district of Philintes) than that recommended by the award ought to convince Turkey that no less concessions can be accepted, and that she incurs great risks by postponing her decision.

I remain, &c.

(Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS.

No. 327.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 16.*)

(No. 122.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 15, 1880.*

COLLECTIVE note presented by German Ambassador to-day as Doyen. At his request and that of my colleagues, I have telegraphed as follows to Mr. Corbett, who is Doyen at Athens:—

"I am requested by German Ambassador, our Doyen, to inform you that the collective note on the Greek question will be delivered to the Porte to-day. It would be desirable to deliver the note to the Greek Government to-day, or to-morrow at latest, in order that the two Governments may receive them almost at the same time. We could not defer sending it in [? till] to-morrow, as, being Friday, there would be no one at the Porte. It would be well if you could collect the signatures to-day, so that the notes may have the same date, the 15th instant."

No. 328.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 16.*)

(No. 123.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 16, 1880.*

TURKISH note on Montenegrin frontier received.

It declares the Porte to be resolved to use, within the limits of what is possible, all necessary measures for the prompt reoccupation of the evacuated positions, and thus to arrive at the execution of the April Convention.

All the same, Porte does not hesitate to take into consideration the mode of solution indicated in identic note of the 26th June, though its application bristles no less with difficulties.

Meanwhile, according to reports received by the Porte from Scutari, the efforts of Turkish authorities have already resulted in obtaining from Albanians that they will not oppose the cession of the greater part of the territory ceded to Montenegro under April Convention.

In view of this result, Porte, availing itself of the principle of exchange already admitted by the Powers, thinks that the cession consented to by the Albanians might be used for a most satisfactory result if an addition were made to it, as compensation for the remainder, by ceding a piece of territory of a larger extent, to be taken in the district of Dulcigno, leaving out the town, which is inhabited exclusively by Albanian Mussulmans.

In thus communicating a proposal which, in the view of the Porte, offers all the advantages of a quick and pacific solution, Turkish Government hopes that Her Majesty's Government will approve of an arrangement which will avoid the complication which either the April Convention or the Dulcigno plan would provoke, while it would contribute to the reconciliation of Montenegrins and Albanians, and establish neighbourly relations between the two peoples.

Note concludes by stating that Albanians of Province of Scutari do not demand other privileges than those which they have enjoyed hitherto, but that they will benefit equally with the rest of European Turkey from Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin.

No. 329.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 103.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 16, 1880.*

BARON HAYMERLÉ is quite alive to the importance of reassuring the Mussulman proprietors in the territories to be ceded to Greece, and the Austrian Minister at Constantinople will receive instructions similar to those in your telegram to Mr. Goschen No. 260.

No. 330.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received July 16, 11·50 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, July 16, 1880, 7·45 P.M.*

I HAVE told M. de Freycinet that Germany agrees to join naval demonstration on the Dulcigno coast, and I have urged earnestly, though in vain, that France is breaking up the European concert by standing out alone against all the other Powers.

M. de Freycinet will say no more than this:—"The French Cabinet are ready to give their adhesion, but they would desire to know if it is well understood, as they suppose, that, the case occurring, the six Powers will act for the Greek frontiers as for Montenegro."

He declares that, if your Lordship will obtain an affirmative answer from all the Powers, he will agree at once to the note and the demonstration, but that, without such an assurance, he could not face public opinion in France.

No. 331.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, July 16, 1880.*

AUSTRIAN Chargé d'Affaires has received instructions to join with his German colleague in recommending Greek Government to remain quiet, and to do nothing which could have the effect of provoking coercive measures against this country on the part of the Porte.

No. 332.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 16, 7·43 P.M.)

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, July 16, 1880, 5·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 21, collective note, dated yesterday, was placed by me in the hands of the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 333.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 282.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 16, 1880.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 282, repeating Mr. Goschen's No. 121, inquire into matter.

Her Majesty's Government would gladly see Germans employed in reorganizing Turkish finances; from no country could come more trustworthy and competent men, and Her Majesty's Government rejoice in any step which would show the interest Germany takes in reforms which are essential in Turkey, but they hope that German Government will not, by allowing their officers at this time to take part in the military administration, encourage Turkey in the resistance which the Porte appears to be preparing to the Berlin Conference award.

No. 334.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 34.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 16, 1880.*

TURKISH Chargé d'Affaires has communicated a telegram from the Porte stating that the Governor of Scutari has telegraphed that at the moment when the Turkish authorities were trying by advice and persuasion to ensure the execution of the Agreement of April 18 without bloodshed, the Montenegrins had compromised the situation by falling unexpectedly on the positions of Vranja and Matagousse, occupied by the Albanians, at 7·30 A.M., Turkish time, on the 12th. The fight lasted two hours and ended in the retreat of the Montenegrins, who left an officer and twelve soldiers on the field. The Albanians, who were entrenched behind fortifications, lost two killed and three wounded. Will you telegraph a report on this statement?

No. 335.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 272.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 16, 1880, 6·30 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 120 of the 15th July, we think, on the whole, it would be better to keep to the terms of the simultaneous communication to which the Powers have assented, and for you not to attempt a compromise, unless an advantageous one was offered by the Porte.

Our best chance is to adhere closely to that upon which the Powers have agreed.

No. 336.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 273.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 16, 1880, 7·10 P.M.*

WITH reference to Captain Swaine's report of 2nd instant, and other reports of Turkish military preparations, Her Majesty's Government do not doubt that you will take every fitting opportunity of urging upon the Porte the responsibility it undertakes by such warlike proceedings.

No. 337.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.**

(No. 358.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 16, 1880, 6·15 P.M.*

AS the collective note has been presented to Porte, ask Government to which you are accredited if they have any objection to its being laid before Parliament.

No. 338.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 283.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 16, 1880, 8·45 P.M.*

YOUR Excellency's telegram No. 52, respecting Montenegro.

State to M. de Freycinet that Her Majesty's Government presume that now Germany assents, French Government will no longer hesitate, and that Her Majesty's Government are quite prepared to act, when the time comes, in the same way for the Greek frontier; but they contemplate that advantage may be taken of the united demonstration off Dulcigno to enter into communications with the South Albanians, and to indicate to them, in the sense of telegram to Mr. Goschen No. 260 and instruction to Mr. Corbett, that the Powers are ready to secure for the Mussulmans their rights of property and civil and

* Also to Lord Odo Russell (No. 281), Sir H. Elliot (No. 341), Lord Lyons (No. 281), and Sir A. Paget (No. 329).

religious liberty, if the cession to Greece is accepted peacefully; but that the landed proprietors must not expect equal consideration for their interests if they resist.

Her Majesty's Government are advised that this may have the strongest effect. They are also advised that it is desirable to avoid any naval demonstration on the South Albanian coast, at all events until some such communication has been made to the Albanians, as otherwise they may regard it as a menace, and collect the clans for resistance, and even for an attack on Greece.

Your Excellency will urge the great danger of precipitating the Greek Frontier question, and the importance of trying to induce the Albanians to accept a peaceful solution.

No. 339.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 261.)

Foreign Office, July 16, 1880.

Sir,

IN your Excellency's telegram No. 120 of yesterday, you report an inclination on the part of Abédine Pasha to propose a third plan for the settlement of the Montenegrin frontier question, by which the Corti arrangement would be partly carried out, but the town of Dulcigno itself would be retained by Turkey.

I have, however, informed your Excellency by telegraph that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, it is advisable that you should not attempt a compromise, but should keep to the terms of the simultaneous communication to which the consent of Europe has been obtained. Unless the Porte were prepared to offer an advantageous compromise, a close adherence to the proposal to which the Powers have agreed is most likely to secure the success of our negotiations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 340.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 262.)

Foreign Office, July 16, 1880.

Sir,

THE announcements of Turkish military preparations which have reached Her Majesty's Government, and especially Colonel Swaine's Report of the 2nd instant on this subject, have engaged their serious attention, and I have to request your Excellency to take every fitting opportunity of impressing upon the Porte the responsibility which it incurs by such warlike proceedings.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 341.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 935.)

Foreign Office, July 16, 1880.

My Lord,

IN your Excellency's telegram of yesterday's date, No. 52, you report that, notwithstanding all your endeavours to induce M. de Freycinet to arrive at a different decision, his Excellency still adheres to his two conditions as those on which the co-operation of the French Government in the proposed measures respecting the Montenegrin question must depend.

M. de Freycinet, as it appears, is apprehensive that public opinion in France would disapprove his committing the country to the measures proposed, unless the other Powers engaged explicitly to adopt the same line of action in regard to the Turco-Greek frontier question; and that he would be deemed unjustifiably imprudent if he allowed France to take any definite measure regarding Montenegro from which even one other Power held aloof.

M. de Freycinet appears to have admitted to your Excellency confidentially that the part of the arrangement which would be considered especially imprudent by his countrymen would be the sending any French force, unless Germany sent an equal force, to co-operate with the other Powers.

I have to request that your Excellency will state to M. de Freycinet, in reply to his explanations, that Her Majesty's Government presume, now that Germany has consented to co-operate with the other Powers, the French Government will no longer hesitate to do so; and you will add that Her Majesty's Government are quite prepared to act, when the time comes, in the same manner as regards the Greek frontier question; but they contemplate that advantage may be taken of the united demonstration off Dulcigno to enter into communications with the Southern Albanians, and to indicate to them, in the sense of the telegram to Mr. Goschen of the 15th instant, and the instructions to Mr. Corbett, that the Powers are ready to secure for the Mussulmans their rights of property and civil and religious liberty, if the cession to Greece, agreed to by the Powers at the Berlin Conference, is accepted peacefully; but that the landed proprietors must not expect equal consideration for their interests if they offer resistance.

Her Majesty's Government are advised that such a course may lead to the most satisfactory results. They are also advised that it is desirable to avoid any naval demonstration on the South Albanian coast,—at all events, until some such communication has been made to the Albanians, as otherwise they may regard it as a menace, and possibly collect the clans for resistance, and even for an attack on Greece.

Your Excellency will urge upon M. de Freycinet the great danger of precipitating the Greek frontier question, and the importance of endeavouring to induce the Albanians to accept a peaceful solution of the frontier question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 342.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 416. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, July 16, 1880.

Sir,

CAPTAIN SALE having informed me that the Austro-Hungarian Consular Representative at Janina is a violent Philo-Turk, and is very indiscreet in using language condemnatory of the award of the Berlin Conference relative to the cession of territory to Greece, I telegraphed to your Excellency to-day to mention this confidentially to Baron Haymerle as a report which has reached Her Majesty's Government from a thoroughly trustworthy source, and upon which they place the fullest reliance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 343.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 393.)

Foreign Office, July 16, 1880.

My Lord,

I REPEATED to you to-day a telegram (No. 121) which I had received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting the arrival there of a German financier, and stating that others would shortly follow, and that German officers were also expected; and I subsequently telegraphed to your Excellency to inquire into this matter.

Her Majesty's Government would gladly see German officials employed in reorganizing the finances of Turkey, for no country could furnish more competent and trustworthy men than Germany, and they would rejoice in any step which would evince the interest taken by Germany in promoting reforms which are so essential to the well-being of the Ottoman Empire.

Her Majesty's Government hope, however, that the German Government will not, by allowing their officers at this time to assist and take part in the military administration of the country, encourage Turkey in the resistance which the Porte appears to be preparing to offer to the carrying out of the award of the Berlin Conference.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 344.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 193. Political.)

Scutari, July 6, 1880.

My Lord,

THE days that have now passed since the news of a proposed cession in the direction of Dulcigno and the River Boyana, instead of Hotti and Gruda, first became current here have permitted the North Albanians to take a calmer view of the contemplated exchange.

They perceive they have been hurried into a demonstration of resistance which threatens to compromise the real interests of the province, and the exaggerated reports of their hostile intentions against Montenegro sent from Constantinople, or from purely Turkish sources, have tended to make the North Albanians comprehend that other interests but those of the province may be concerned in proving to the European Governments that nothing reasonable or practical can be expected from the natives of this country.

The assurances given me from the commencement have now been again repeated, that no precipitate action will be taken by the Chiefs against Montenegro, and that, if the latter does not attempt to advance on Albanian territory, nothing will be done from this side to complicate affairs.

My Austrian colleague has told me that he has been able to give similar information to Baron Haymerlé, who had been led to understand that an attack against Antivari was imminent; and M. Lippich has also stated to his Excellency that both he and I are still of opinion, from our careful observation of the position here, that the moment the Porte consents to the arrangements we had proposed they would not only be accepted in perfect quietness by the Albanians, but also with a sense of intense relief at the cessation of a state of things which is fast becoming intolerable to the whole population.

It was this feeling which made the announcement from Constantinople, three days ago, by the Havas telegram, that Commissioners had started for Scutari to endeavour to persuade the Albanians to accept the territorial cessions made by the Convention of the 12th April, to be, at first, received with satisfaction, for it was interpreted as conveying the news of the appointment of International Commissioners, whose action could be depended upon; but, as soon as this misconception wore away, the greatest agitation arose, notwithstanding that Izzet Pasha privately explained that the Commissioners would only be empowered to use friendly persuasion.

The prospect of another period of tortuous ways and uncertainty, paralyzing every source of industry and livelihood, caused the Scutari Committee to contemplate with alarm the consequences that might arise to themselves, and they, therefore, yesterday increased their body by admitting fourteen fresh members, seven Christians and seven Mahommedans.

A meeting was held in the afternoon, and it was unanimously decided, and immediately carried into effect, that Izzet Pasha should be informed by a written notice that no Turkish Commissioners having in view the carrying out of territorial cessions to Montenegro which have been made without the consent of the Albanians will be permitted to set foot in this country.

Although this step has been taken with all sincerity by most of the Committee, still I cannot avoid suspecting that it may not be quite distasteful to the Ottoman authorities. In nearly all the reports from this, appearing in the European press, it is made abundantly clear that, up to the present, the action of the Albanian Committee has been entirely guided by the Porte, and that the difficulties met by Montenegro have had their origin in Constantinople. The refusal to permit the Imperial Commissioners to disembark may be hoped to give a denial to these assertions, and it is in this manner that I explain the adhesion of Daout Effendi, and several other Mussulman Government employés who are members of the Committee, to the measure adopted yesterday.

But I have reason to think also that the majority of the Committee, whilst fully knowing the motives which probably brought to its side Daout Effendi and his friends, is pursuing with determination a result which, it trusts, is not quite expected by the Ottoman authorities.

The members of this majority wish to push matters to a crisis. It is for this that they have decided upon having at their disposal a force with which to meet any sudden attempt of Izzet Pasha to upset their proceedings by unexpected action, and they think that, if their refusal to receive the Imperial Commissioners is accepted unnoticed, they may

have better success in bringing matters to a head by intimating to the Governor-General himself the necessity of his departure.

They have already discussed the respective merits of the surrender of the territories comprised in the Dulcigno proposal and those of the Constantinople Convention, and they understand that the former cession is one which may be even advantageous to the future of the province, whilst the latter would not only be a death-blow to the political existence of the Roman Catholic Mountains, but would also end in the absorption of Scutari itself to Montenegro.

Naturally the Mahommedans of this majority dislike the prospect of abandoning any of their co-religionists to come under Christian rule, but they see the necessity of sacrificing them in favour of a purely Roman Catholic population when the interests of the whole province are considered.

So far has the discussion of the cession of Dulcigno progressed that it has now, according to M. Lippich's and my impression, reached the point when opposition to it only proceeds from the side of the Turkish Government. Doubtless, certain religious and national susceptibilities will exist to the end, but they will become merely nominal if pressed by a clear expression of the will of the Great Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 345.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received July 17.)

(Confidential.)

My Lord,

Corfu, July 13, 1880.

HAVING been asked for information which could only be obtained from Epirus, and the Telegraph Director here having informed me that the Ottoman telegraphs in that province were not at this moment at all reliable, I, a few days ago, telegraphed to Vice-Consul Onofrio, of Santa Maura, to run over to Prevesa (a few hours by a small boat), to obtain from Vice-Consul Blakeney the required information, and then to return to Santa Maura, and telegraph me through the Greek line.

A few hours ago a batch of reports reached me from Mr. Onofrio, copies of which I have just time to transmit to your Lordship by this post, and which will give your Lordship further information relative to Epirus.

The last Austrian Lloyd's steamboat took 160 Turkish artillerymen for Prevesa.

I have been informed that the Greek War Office is establishing ambulance stations along the frontier. I was also told a few days ago by a person acquainted with the locality, that the torpedoes sunk by the Turks in 1878 at the entrance of Prevesa have never been removed. After this lapse of time, however, they cannot now be of much use.

Sir Peter Brāila arrived here on Saturday last from Berlin, on his way to Athens, for which he starts this evening. He received quite an ovation on his landing.

Yesterday, accompanied by Lieutenant Caillard, I paid him a visit, and was astonished to hear him speak so highly of what is going on in Epirus, and which is at variance with the feelings on the subject of the Greeks here, who appear to have abandoned all hope of obtaining any concession of territory without the "material intervention" of the Great Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 345.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Reade.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Santa Maura, July 8, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report that instructions were telegraphed yesterday to the authorities to report at once whether the road connecting this town with the fort of Santa Maura and the mainland can be repaired for military purposes in forty days, as well as to report on the sanitary condition of this place and the hospital accommodation it affords.

2. The Greek forces along the Turco-Acarnanian frontier are distributed as follows:—

Santa Maura	..	70 gendarmerie.
Youliza	..	60 "Evsoui."
Carvassara	..	150 "
Anino	..	350 "

But these forces are being strengthened, as volunteers, mostly men who already served in the Greek army—the districts of Prevesa and Arta giving their quota—are coming in full numbers to join the "Evsoui."

3. Arms and ammunition have been dispatched to Carvassarà from Agrinion, intended for the use of the troops, as well as for distribution among the Christians on the other side of the border, and I am confidentially informed that the Greek naval officers alluded to in my despatch No. 25 of the 26th ultimo have been engaged in taking soundings at the entrance of Prevesa during night-time, and also in landing arms and ammunition from the fort of Santa Maura, on the coast of Kanali.

4. Frontier reports bring that the Turkish post at Anino has received further reinforcements, and that earthworks are being thrown up in that locality.

5. I avail myself of this opportunity to add that both the Austrian and the Turkish Consular Agents have been again urgently instructed to at once report everything connected with military preparations in this district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 345.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Reade.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Prevesa, July* 11, 1880.

IN pursuance of your telegraphic instructions of the 8th instant, I repaired hither yesterday morning.

The statement I have the honour to inclose shows the result of the inquiries I and Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney have made up to the present moment, and although it is impossible for us to vouch for its accuracy, yet it is the best information on the subject that we have been able to procure.

I avail myself of this opportunity to inform you that Ferik Zeki Pasha arrived here the other day from Janina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

Inclosure 3 in No. 345.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Reade.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Prevesa, July* 11, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that alarming Reports have been received here relative to the state of affairs at Paramythia. The Mussulmans decided last week to invite the Christians and oblige them to follow their lead, to contribute money, and be ready to co-operate with them in everything connected with the movement against the annexation to Greece. A Commission of Mussulmans went to Janina, communicated to the Bishop their decision, and asked him to induce the Christians to unite with their Committee. The Bishop replied that he had no instructions either from the Patriarch nor from the Government to take part in such movements.

Threats have consequently been circulated.

Mr. Consular Agent Kypriotis deemed it his duty to represent matters to the Vali, who told him he had received no information on the subject, but assured him that he would despatch Liva Ibrahim Pasha with 200 Circassians to Paramythia. This, however, has not been done, as, on reconsideration, the Committee have decided to let the Christians alone, at least for the time being, but the country is reported to be in a state of great excitement, and the need of timely protection is very much felt.

2. Among the Albanian Chiefs (twenty-five) who arrived at Prevesa last week figures Suleiman Dinos, uncle of Abédine Pasha: Albanians have arrived here in batches of 25

and 30, and there are now altogether some 100. It is rumoured that others will follow. The impending return of Wessel Bey to Prevesa is also announced.

The Committee of the "League" hold frequent interviews with the authorities, and the determination of resistance continues unabated.

The Vali arrived here this morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

Inclosure 4 in No. 345.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Reade.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Prevesa, July* 11, 1880.

THE impression that both Austria and Italy are somehow averse to the cession of this part of Epirus to Greece begin to gain ground here. Perhaps the Vice-Consuls of those two Powers here have given cause for this impression to take root, while on the other hand the Albanians feel encouraged to resist it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

Inclosure 5 in No. 345.

STATEMENT showing the approximate Number of Troops stationed in the following Districts of Epirus:—

Prevesa.

Infantry	1,200
Artillery	250
Field ditto	30
Zaptiehs	120
Total	1,650

Parga and Margariti.

Infantry	500
Artillery	50
Zaptiehs	80
Total	630

Arta and Anino.

Infantry	2,800
Artillery	50
Mountain ditto	60
Cavalry	50
Zaptiehs	200
Total	3,160

Janina.

Infantry	2,400
Cavalry	300
Total	2,700
Artillery	1 battery.
Mountain ditto	2 "

Zagori.

Infantry	600

Metzovo and Grevená.

Infantry	600

Konitza and Grevená.

Infantry	600

Delvino.

Infantry	600

A despatch from Mr. Consular Agent Kypriotis, received here last night, states that the 2nd battalion, 4th regiment, which is composed of Albanians and "Ghegbs," is arriving in batches at Janina from Grevená and is gradually being disbanded. The above battalion is about 900 strong.

The average strength of the battalion at Janina, Zagori, Metzovo, Konitza, and Delvino is given at about 600 men each.

(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO, *Vice-Consul.*

Prevesa, July 11, 1880.

No. 346.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 602.)
My Lord, *Paris, July 14, 1880.*

I COMMUNICATED verbally to M. de Freycinet this morning the observations which your Lordship had sent me by telegraph* with regard to his answer to your Lordship's proposal respecting an identic communication to be made to the Porte on the subject of the Montenegrin frontier.

I enforced your Lordship's views to the best of my ability, but I am sorry to say with little success.

M. de Freycinet continued to raise objections to announcing definitely to the Porte that if it did not execute within three weeks the Corti arrangement it would be expected to join the Powers in assisting the Prince of Montenegro to take possession by force of the Dulcigno district under the alternative plan.

His Excellency maintained that it would be better that the identic note should not contain any more definite threat than a declaration, that in the case supposed the Powers would, at the end of the three weeks, resume full liberty of action as to the measures to be taken by them. He argued that the very vagueness of this declaration would cause it to be more alarming to the Porte than any specific statement of the course that would be adopted; and he urged that the declaration having been made in the terms he suggested, the Powers would be perfectly justified in carrying into effect the proposed naval demonstration without giving the Porte any further warning.

M. de Freycinet observed that it had not been at all his intention that Her Majesty's Government should conclude from his note to me of the 10th instant† that the French Government absolutely objected to take part in the naval demonstration. On the contrary, they were, he said, quite ready to send French ships to the Adriatic, provided that two conditions which they deemed essential were fulfilled.

They thought, in the first place, that for any real effect to be produced by the demonstration it was necessary that all the Powers without exception should participate in it. The absence of the flag of any one Power would, in their opinion, suffice to give the Porte the idea of disunion between the Governments.

In the second place, the French Government apprehended that the demonstration, if made apparently in favour of Montenegro alone, would exercise a prejudicial influence on the treatment of the Greek question. This being the case, they regarded it as essential that there should be an explicit understanding beforehand that the same measure would, in case of need, be taken in support of Greece.

I have already had the honour to transmit the substance of this despatch to your Lordship by telegraph.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 347.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 610. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, July 15, 1880.*

I WENT this evening to M. de Freycinet and said that I was desirous of communicating to him as soon as possible observations made by your Lordship on his answer to your proposal that an identic communication should be made to the Porte on the Montenegrin question.

It appeared, I said, to your Lordship, that as the terms of the identic note had been agreed to by all the Powers it would be extremely inconvenient and unadvisable to attempt to modify them now.

His Excellency had, I proceeded to observe, suggested that a vague warning should be substituted for the declaration that if the Porte did not execute the Corti Arrangement within three weeks, it would be expected to join the Powers in assisting the Prince of Montenegro to take possession by force of the Dulcigno district under the alternative plan.

Your Lordship (I told M. de Freycinet) considered that a mere vague warning would

* See No. 215.

† Lord Lyons, Nos. 689 and 690 of July 12, 1880.

be altogether illusory. It seemed to you to be essential that the Prince of Montenegro should be exactly informed of what was proposed, and you were unable to see that anything could be gained by keeping the information back from the Porte.

I then spoke of the contemplated naval demonstration in the Adriatic, and said that it appeared that with the exception of France the only Power which still hesitated was Germany, whose hesitation might be sufficiently accounted for by the limited number of her ships-of-war.

I pointed out to M. de Freycinet, in the course of a conversation of some length, that the proposed naval demonstration was to be considered as an integral part of the course of action to be taken to enforce the views of the Powers with regard to the general execution of the Treaty of Berlin—that the united action of the Powers in regard to the Montenegrin frontier would be most important as a means of inducing the Porte and the Albanians to accept the Award of the Conference respecting the frontier of Greece—and that by standing aloof from the agreement of the other Powers France would discourage the continuance of union among the Powers, and give a very dangerous opening to the Porte.

M. de Freycinet replied that he could not disregard public opinion in France, and that the two conditions he had laid down appeared to be imposed by the general feeling in this country.

There were, his Excellency said, very general misgivings as to its being prudent for France to enter upon any course which might lead to the necessary employment of her naval or military forces abroad. There would be an outery if she entered upon such a course in regard to a question about which the public knew so little and cared so little as that of Montenegro. In order to make such a proceeding at all acceptable it would be necessary for him to show that it was undeniably connected with the Greek question, in which the French did take an interest. But while he gave full weight to the representations as to the good effect which the proposed demonstration would have on the Porte with regard to Greece, he was still unable to say that he had obtained any explicit assurance that the Powers would actually extend it to the Greek question.

Such an explicit assurance was necessary to him, and the obtaining it must still be his first condition.

In the second place it was quite certain that the French Government would be most strongly condemned for imprudence if they committed France to the employment of any part of her forces, unless all the other Powers, without exception, committed themselves, materially and morally, to quite the same extent.

He could only say that if these two conditions were fulfilled France would be ready to join the other Powers both in the identic note and in the naval demonstration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 348.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 611. Secret.)
My Lord, *Paris, July 15, 1880.*

IN the course of the conversation of which a report is given in my immediately preceding despatch, M. de Freycinet, speaking quite confidentially, admitted to me that it was especially with a view to Germany that French public opinion was so very susceptible with regard to the employment of any French force abroad, or to the contracting any engagement which might lead to a step of the kind.

In the face of this public opinion, he could not, he said, venture to send a naval force to the Adriatic unless Germany sent an equal force.

We cannot, he added, come out of our house unless Germany also comes out of hers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 349.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 621.)
My Lord, *Paris, July 17, 1880.*

IN obedience to your Lordship's instruction I have asked M. de Freycinet whether the French Government has any objection to the presentation to Parliament of the Collective Note in which the result of the Berlin Conference has been communicated to the Ottoman and Hellenic Governments.

His Excellency has answered that the French Government have no objection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 350.

Lieutenant-Colonel Methuen to Lord Odo Russell.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 17.)

(No. 47. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, July 12, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Messrs. Krupp and Co. have received an order from Greece to make for that country some ship guns; the sum paid is from 2,000,000 fr. to 3,000,000 fr.

An order has been given, or is about to be given, by the Roumanian Government, to Messrs. Krupp, for forty-eight or sixty field-guns of 7·8 or 8·7 calibre, and longer than the guns in use in this army.

I do not know the number for certain, but am inclined to think it is forty-eight, as I have ascertained an order has been given for 50,000 rounds shell; and, as a rule, 1,000 rounds are ordered for each gun.

No orders are likely to be given by Turkey, as she should have a good supply of ammunition over and above her expenditure in the late war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PAUL METHUEN.

No. 351.

Lieutenant-Colonel Methuen to Lord Odo Russell.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 17.)

(No. 50. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, July 17, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that as yet no officers have proceeded officially from Germany to Turkey. Several officers have been asked if they would like to go, but on the understanding that they wear Turkish uniform. This they one and all decline doing. They are ready to go, provided they are ordered to do so, and allowed to wear their own uniform.

I have to add the information I now give is from a very reliable source.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PAUL METHUEN.

No. 352.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received July 17, 2·35 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, July 16, 1880, 4·20 P.M.*

ROUMANIAN Agent informs me that his Government have made an appeal to the Powers respecting refusal of Bulgarian Government to recognize their rights of Consular jurisdiction. The Agent has been instructed to support claims of Roumania.

M. Zancoff contends that Bulgaria, having been given a Christian Government, should not be considered as forming part of the Ottoman Empire. He admits the rights of the Powers Signatory of the Treaty of Berlin to Consular jurisdiction, but denies that Roumania, who has always protested against the Capitulations, is entitled to it.

No. 353.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 55.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, July 17, 1880.*

FRENCH Government has no objection to the presentation of the collective note to Parliament.

No. 354.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received July 17, 10 P.M.)

(No. 56.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, July 17, 1880, 6·25 P.M.*

I HAVE read your telegram No. 283 to M. de Freycinet. He repudiated all idea of a desire to precipitate the Greek Frontier question, but said that what the French Government required was that before it joined in the demonstration with respect to Montenegro, the six Powers should give an assurance that they would, in case of need, make a similar united demonstration at the proper moment with respect to the Greek Frontier question. He added that the French Government required this, not for immediate publication, but in order to defend themselves before the Chambers in the autumn, and he added that this was necessary, as French opinion cared little about Montenegro, but much about Greece.

M. de Freycinet adhered pertinaciously to the language he held to me yesterday. He said that the President of the Republic and the Ministers had unanimously approved that language at the Council this morning, and that he could not modify it.

He maintained that the assurance which the French Government wanted could be obtained in a very short time from the Powers, unless indeed some of them had their own reasons for not giving it.

No. 355.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 104.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 17, 1880.*

AUSTRIAN Government have no objection to collective note being laid before Parliament.

No. 356.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, July 17, 1880.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 18 of yesterday, answer, dated yesterday, of Greek Government to collective note received last night.

Prime Minister takes note of communication which has been made to him, and, recognizing the spirit of equity which inspired the Powers in the accomplishment of their task at Berlin, accepts, in name of Hellenic Government, frontier-line fixed by Conference, of which direction is indicated in the "Acte Finale."

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 357.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received July 17, 6 P.M.)

(No. 82.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, July 17, 1880, 2 P.M.*

YOUR Lordship's No. 329.

Italian Government have no objection to the collective note being laid before Parliament.

No. 358.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 17, 6·15 P.M.)

(No. 83.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, July* 17, 1880, 2·15 P.M.

ITALIAN Chargé d'Affaires at Cettinjé has telegraphed at request of Prince to the following effect:—

The Prince has heard that it is the intention of the Powers to assist him, by a naval demonstration, to take possession of the Dulcigno district. He has serious apprehension that a naval demonstration will not be sufficient to enable him to overcome the resistance of the Albanians backed up by Turkish troops. Moreover, after three years' warfare, he feels it impossible to undertake the sacrifices which would be entailed upon him by entering on a new conflict. Under these circumstances, he requested the Italian Government to sound other Powers as to their views respecting further measures.

Instructions have been sent to Marquis Menabrea to bring this question before your Lordship; but Italian Government have not communicated at present with any other Government upon it.

No. 359.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 17, 11·30 P.M.)

(No. 84.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, July* 17, 1880, 5·45 P.M.

I HAVE just had a visit from Minister for Foreign Affairs. Speaking of the new Turkish proposal about Montenegro, his Excellency said that as it did not seem to be a very important departure from the Dulcigno one, and in view of the hesitation of some of the Powers respecting the naval demonstration, and also of the inability expressed by the Prince of Montenegro to take possession of the territory assigned to him without more effective assistance on the part of the Powers, his decisive opinion was that the proposal should be closed with at once, of course on the condition that the Porte will immediately proceed to execute it.

His Excellency, while expressing himself most earnestly as to importance of European concert both in the Montenegrin and Greek questions, begged Her Majesty's Government to be assured that the basis of the policy of the Italian Government is a complete and cordial understanding with England. Italian Government will be quite ready to join in securing for the Mussulmans their rights of property and civil and religious liberty if the cession to Greece is accepted peacefully.

No. 360.

*Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.**

(No. 291.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 17, 1880, 5 P.M.

WITH reference to Lord Lyons' telegram No. 54, just repeated to you, you are instructed to ask the Government to which you are accredited to give the assurance desired by M. de Freycinet, and to state that Her Majesty's Government are ready to give it.

No. 361.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.†

(No. 293.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 17, 1880.

HER Majesty's Government are of opinion that the Powers should send in the proposed simultaneous communication respecting Montenegrin frontier as a reply to the Porte's note on the subject, of which the substance is given in Mr. Goschen's telegram No. 123. It would only lead to further fruitless discussion if the Powers were to enter into negotiations for

* Also to Sir H. Elliot (No. 350), the Earl of Dufferin (No. 369), and Sir A. Paget (No. 337).

† Also to Lord Lyons (No. 288), Sir H. Elliot (No. 353), Sir A. Paget (No. 339), and the Earl of Dufferin (No. 371).

another form of cession, and it is evident from the skirmish which has occurred recently that the matter requires immediate settlement.

No. 362.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 350.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 17, 1880, 4·10 P.M.

ASK Austrian Government confidentially what they think of the question of Consular jurisdiction in Bulgaria, raised in Mr. Lascelles' telegram No. 1 of 17th instant, repeated to you.

No. 363.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 17, 7 P.M.)

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, July* 17, 1880, 4·44 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's No. 281.

German Government have no objection to publication of collective note, or indeed to all the Protocols of the Conference.

No. 364.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 17, 7 P.M.)

(No. 62. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, July* 17, 1880, 4·44 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's No. 283.

Prince Hohenlohe is much obliged for your Lordship's welcome approval respecting employment of Germans for reorganization of Turkish finances. No officers have yet been sent because they all object to wearing the Turkish uniform, but if any should consent to go, German Government would know how to guard against danger Her Majesty's Government appear to apprehend.

No. 365.

*Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.**

(No. 289.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 17, 1880, 7·30 P.M.

INQUIRE of Government to which you are accredited whether they agree with Her Majesty's Government that it would be desirable, in view of the united representations now being addressed to the Porte, that a Protocol should be signed by the Ambassadors at Constantinople in the terms employed on similar occasions of concert among Powers as follows:—

"The Governments represented by the Undersigned engage not to seek, in any arrangements which may be come to in consequence of their concerted action for the execution of the Treaty of Berlin, any augmentation of territory, any exclusive influence or any commercial advantage for their subjects, which those of every other nation may not equally obtain."

Precedents for this will be found in Protocol of the 4th April, 1826, and Treaty of the 6th July, 1827, for the pacification of Greece; Protocol of the 17th September, 1840, for pacification of the Levant; Protocol of the 3rd August, 1860, for the pacification of Syria; Austrian despatch, the 1st June, 1866. See Hertslet's "Map of Europe by Treaty," pp. 743, 771, 1023, 1452, 1677.

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* Also to Sir H. Elliot (No. 354), Lord Odo Russell (No. 294), Sir A. Paget (No. 340), and the Earl of Dufferin (No. 372).

No. 366.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 17, 11·30 P.M.)

(No. 126.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 17, 1880, 4·5 P.M.

AT meeting of Ambassadors to-day, intended for discussion of Armenian question, discussion on Turkish answer to last note about Montenegro took its place. Two points created great impression, the report received about Albanian bands proceeding in direction of Tusi, and Abédine Pasha's statement that Albania would not resist occupation of Dulcigno, but transfer their forces to attack Montenegro elsewhere. Possibility and even probability of such an attack seemed so great that it was thought to be the duty of the Ambassadors here to call attention of their Governments to it as a point to be seriously considered.

Since the meeting I have received your telegram No. 275.

Refusal of France is most inopportune, as the tactics of the Albanians in directing counter-attack on Montenegrin territory as reply to naval demonstration may frighten some of the Powers.

No. 367.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 17, 11·30 P.M.)

(No. 127.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 17, 1880, 6·30 P.M.

I HAVE asked for interview with Sultan, so that I may communicate substance of telegram No. 260 to him personally. It seems very important that Representatives of other Powers should make similar declarations.

No. 368.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.[a]

(No. 239.)
Foreign Office, July 14, 1880.

Sir,

I AUTHORIZED your Excellency by telegraph, on the 12th instant, to make arrangements with your colleagues as to the manner of presenting the collective note containing the Award of the Berlin Conference to the Porte. The Powers have agreed that the presentation should take place at Constantinople and Athens on the same day.

Your Excellency will find the complete text of the note and of the Award in the Protocols of the Conference No. 5 and No. 7, which I sent to you in my despatch No. 224 of the 8th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 369.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 418.)
Foreign Office, July 17, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE to request your Excellency to ascertain confidentially from the Austro-Hungarian Government what view they take of the question of Consular jurisdiction in Bulgaria raised by the Roumanian Government, and reported in Mr. Lascelles telegram No. 1 of the 16th instant, repeated to you to-day.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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[a] Also to Mr. Corbett.

No. 370.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 419.)
Foreign Office, July 17, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 382 of the 10th instant, reporting that the Austro-Hungarian Government continue to receive accounts of constant arrivals of Russian soldiers and non-commissioned officers in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, as well as of arms, and I have to request your Excellency to endeavour to procure further details, and to furnish me with any other information you can obtain on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 371.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.[a]

(No. 397.)
Foreign Office, July 17, 1880.

My Lord,

YOUR Excellency will have learnt from Mr. Goschen's telegram of yesterday (No. 123), which has been sent to you, the nature of the answer which has been returned by the Porte to the identic note of the 26th June, in which its attention was invited to the proposed solution of the Montenegrin difficulty by a cession of territory on the seaconst. The answer produces a counter-proposal, according to which a compromise would be effected between the proposal of the 26th June and the April arrangement.

Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that no object could be gained by entertaining this counter-proposal. They consider that the Powers would simply be courting further fruitless discussion if they were to enter into negotiations upon another form of cession, which it is evident from the recent skirmish between the Montenegrins and Albanians that the matter requires immediate settlement.

The right course would be, in their judgment, to send in the proposed simultaneous note as a reply to this last communication from the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 372.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.[a]

(No. 399.)
Foreign Office, July 17, 1880.

My Lord,

HER Majesty's Government consider that, in view of the united representations which are now being addressed by the Powers in concert to the Porte, it would be desirable that the Ambassadors at Constantinople should be empowered to sign a Protocol, in the nature of the self-denying agreements by which, on various occasions, Powers acting together for a common object have bound themselves not to seek increase of territory, or other exclusive influence or advantage.

The precedents to which I would draw your Excellency's attention are the 5th Article of the Protocol signed at St. Petersburgh on the 4th April, 1826; of the Conference between the British and Russian Plenipotentiaries relative to the mediation of Great Britain between Turkey and Greece; the Vth Article of the Treaty of the 6th July, 1827, for the pacification of Greece, between Great Britain, France, and Russia; the 3rd Protocol of the Conferences of 1840, respecting the pacification of the Levant, between Great Britain, Austria, Prussia, Russia, and Turkey; the IVth Article of the Convention of the 10th April, 1854, between Great Britain and France, which preceded the Crimean War; and the 2nd Protocol of the Conferences of 1860 on the pacification of Syria, between Great Britain, France, Prussia, Russia, and Turkey. A declaration of the same description is to be found in the note of the 1st June, 1866, from Count Mensdorff to Count Apponyi, stating the conditions on which Austria consented to join in a Congress for the preservation of the peace of Europe.

These papers are printed in Hertslet's "Map of Europe by Treaty," at pp. 743, 771, 1023, 1194, 1452, and 1677.

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[a] Also to Sir H. Elliot, Lord Lyons, Sir A. Paget, and the Earl of Dufferin.

The Protocol now suggested would, if the form previously employed be adopted, run as follows:—

"The Governments represented by the Undersigned engage not to seek, in any arrangement which may be come to in consequence of their concerted action for the execution of the Treaty of Berlin, any augmentation of territory, any exclusive influence, or any commercial advantage for their subjects which those of every other nation may not equally obtain."

I have to request your Excellency to ascertain and report to me whether the Governments will be prepared to instruct their Representatives at Constantinople to sign, on their behalf, an engagement of this description.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 373.

*Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.**

(No. 395.) *Foreign Office, July* 17, 1880.

My Lord,

YOU are aware, from Lord Lyons' telegrams, copies of which have been sent to you, that the French Government attach to their assent to joining in the projected naval demonstration off Dulcigno the condition that it should be well understood that, the case occurring, the Six Powers will act for the Greek frontiers as for Montenegro; that M. de Freycinet has declared that, if Her Majesty's Government will obtain an affirmative answer to this condition from the Powers, he will at once agree to the simultaneous note and to the naval demonstration, but that he could not face public opinion in France unless he could satisfy it with such an assurance.

I have to request your Excellency to inquire whether the German Government are prepared to give the assurance for which M. de Freycinet stipulates, and I authorize you to state that there will be no objection to giving it on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 374.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 18.)

(No. 49.) *Scutari, July* 17, 1880.
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR Lordship's No. 35 [? 34] of yesterday.

No secret whatever was made by the Albanians of their intention to attack the Montenegrins, as is proved by my telegram No. 41 of the 10th July. The Governor-General's statement is the reverse of true from beginning to end, and, instead of endeavouring to secure the peaceful execution of the April Convention, he has been more than ever encouraging resistance, and probably aggression also. He denies stoutly to the natives the intention of his Government to fulfil the Corfu Agreement, and he has so assured them of support, and misrepresented the intentions of the Great Powers, that they begin to distrust foreign influence.

His Excellency actually [?] within last few days has caused Roman Catholic members of the Scutari Committee to admit to me that he really directs all their proceedings.

Volunteers are still being collected and sent to the frontier with more publicity than ever.

The bad faith of the Porte is evident from the pretence it puts forward of being able to induce the Albanians to accept the April Convention.

(Sent to Therapia.)

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* Also to Sir H. Elliot, the Earl of Dufferin, and Sir A. Paget.

No. 375.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 18, 7 P.M.)

(No. 22.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, July* 18, 1880, 4 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 21 of yesterday's date, Tricoupi has informed me that he had received to-day telegram from the King that he had signed Proclamation for mobilizing the army, to be published when former judged right.

It will not be published till intention has been notified to Governments of France and England.

By anticipation it will, however, be made [?] in keeping in ranks seasoned soldiers whose time of service is about to expire.

No. 376.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 18, 8·30 P.M.)

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, July* 18, 1880, 4·25 P.M.

NEWS has been received by the Government that the garrison of Domoko, a fortified position commanding one of the principal roads from Greece into Thessaly, has mutinied and killed the Pasha in command.

Four hundred of them have taken refuge on Greek territory. They will be disarmed and fed.

No. 377.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 18, 11 P.M.)

(No. 24.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, July* 18, 1880, 4·30 P.M.

FRENCH Government has consented to sell to that of Greece from Government stores the rifles that may be required by latter.

No. 378.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 19.)

(No. 300.)
My Lord, *Berlin, July* 10, 1880.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegraphic inquiry, I am informed by Prince Hohenlohe that the German Ambassador at Constantinople will be instructed to concert and act with his colleagues in regard to the presentation of the collective note to the Porte.

His Highness is, however, of opinion that the communication of the award of the Berlin Conference and of the note of the Powers should take place at Athens on the same day as at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 379.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 19.)

(No. 300 A. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, July* 12, 1880.

WHEN the King of Greece passed through Berlin on Saturday last on his way to Denmark, he told Prince Hohenlohe, under the seal of secrecy, that he entirely disapproved of M. Tricoupi's proposed Proclamations and military measures, and thought them detrimental to the Greek cause: he would, therefore, withhold his signature to the Proclamations as long as he could, and he would not return to Greece until after the hot season was over, and the present national excitement had somewhat subsided.

His Majesty then went on to say, that he had felt grateful to England for warning

M. Tricoupi of the danger he was exposing his country to, by taking measures which might impede the progress of the negotiations the Mediating Powers had undertaken, and might lead to hostilities which it was the first duty of Greece to avoid, and he most earnestly hoped Germany would not only support the representations already made at Athens by the Governments of England and France, but would go a step further, and would induce all the Mediating Powers to tell M. Tricoupi, if he did not act on the advice already given, that the Mediating Powers must insist on Greece remaining passive, neutral, and expectant until they considered that the work of mediation they had undertaken was over and accomplished; otherwise the Powers would not be responsible for the consequences.

Of course, the King said, it would injure him personally in Greece if it became known that he was giving this advice in foreign Courts against his own Ministers, but it was in his opinion the only way to save M. Tricoupi from being carried away by the national current which was dragging him into war with Turkey.

His Majesty confided to Prince Hohenlohe that he had spoken in the same sense to the French Ministers at Paris, and to the French Ambassador at Berlin.

To-day Prince Hohenlohe told me that the Chancellor had considered the confidential suggestions offered by the King of Greece as reasonable and worthy of support, and that he was somewhat surprised to find that the French Government objected to the exercise of further pressure at Athens in the sense suggested by King George, because France could not make herself responsible for the consequences to which a defenceless state of Greece might lead, in the event of her being attacked by Turkey.

My French colleague, Count de St. Vallier, tells me that he has been informed that M. de Freycinet is about to consult your Lordship confidentially on the subject of these royal overtures.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 380.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 19.)

(No. 302.) *Berlin, July 14, 1880.*
My Lord,

YOUR Lordship has learnt from Lieutenant-Colonel Methuen's despatch No. 46, inclosed in my despatch No. 295, Most Confidential, to your Lordship, that the Sultan has applied to the German Emperor for some military instructors, and I have since been told that he had also asked for a financial adviser, a request which His Majesty was graciously pleased to accede to, and Councillor Wettendorf of Düsseldorf was instructed to proceed at once to Constantinople and place himself at the disposal of the Porte.

Some officers have already been appointed, and have left for Turkey, but I have not yet been able to ascertain their names.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

P.S.—*17th July.*—Since writing the above I have been informed that no officer has yet left.

O. R.

No. 381.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 19.)

(No. 306. Confidential.) *Berlin, July 15, 1880.*
My Lord,

I HAVE had some conversation with Prince Hohenlohe on the subject of the unwillingness of the French Government to take part in the proposed naval demonstration on the Dulcigno coast, and I said that Her Majesty's Government attached the greatest importance to that demonstration of united action as a means also of inducing the Porte and the Albanians to accept the award of the Berlin Conference for the rectification of the Greek frontier.

Prince Hohenlohe, who seemed to view the question in the same light, said that the Chancellor was now quite willing to "show the German flag" on the Dulcigno coast if all

the other Powers agreed to take part in the proposed naval demonstration, and that he had already been in communication with the Admiralty on the subject.

The result of his inquiry was, that Germany had no ships of war at present in the Mediterranean, but that they were ready to be dispatched, as soon as the naval demonstration had been decided upon by the Powers.

If all the others were agreed he did not think France would stand back or hesitate to act in concert with England, Germany, Austria, Russia, and Italy, but personally he did not expect that the naval demonstration would have to be resorted to at all, because the Porte would probably now recognize the advantages she could derive from carrying out the Corti line alone, and without the proffered assistance of the united Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 382.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 19.)

(No. 307. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, July 15, 1880.*

IN the course of a private after-dinner conversation I had with Prince Hohenlohe on the subject of the hesitation of the French Government to take part in the Dulcigno naval demonstration, whilst at Constantinople they had twice addressed the Porte in language conveying menace, I asked his Highness how, with his great personal experience of France and French statesmen, he explained the attitude they were gradually assuming in opposition to the spirit of the European concert.

Prince Hohenlohe replied with a smile that nearly all Frenchmen, with very few exceptions, such, for instance, as our French colleague, Count de St. Vallier, who knew better, suffered from what he called a "blue fright" of being dragged by events into demonstrations which might ultimately entail the employment of French troops abroad, and which Prince Bismarck would then take advantage of, to pounce upon France for purposes of his own.

Absurd as this impression might appear to be, it was nevertheless shared by "serious men" in France, who also thought that in such a contingency they could not reckon on any material assistance from England.

By holding menacing language to Turkey, French Ministers hoped to bring about a pacific solution of the Greek question, and by refusing to join in the Montenegrin naval demonstration, they thought to be prudently keeping out of future dangerous entanglements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 383.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 19.)

(No. 311.)
My Lord, *Berlin, July 17, 1880.*

IN reply to your Lordship's question, whether the German Government have any objection to the publication of the collective note on the subject of the Greek frontier, I have the honour to state that they have no objection either to the publication of this note or to that of all the Protocols of the Conference lately held in this capital.

I have, &c.
(For Lord Odo Russell),
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 384.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 19.)

(No. 293.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July 15, 1880.*

IN accordance with your Lordship's instructions, I waited on M. de Giers and read to him your despatch No. 272 of the 21st June, containing the report of your conversation

with Prince Labanoff on the 21st ult. In return, his Excellency was good enough to read me the Prince's account of the same interview, which quite coincided with that of your Lordship.

M. de Giers was evidently very much annoyed at the news having been so extensively spread of the Russian Government having offered 20,000 troops to England for the purpose of constraining the cession of the Dulcigno district. He told me he had received telegrams asking whether the report was true from almost every Court in Europe.

His Excellency then called my especial attention to the fact, that in Prince Labanoff's despatch the reference to the proposed Russian contingent was specifically stated to have been made as a private and personal suggestion of the Russian Ambassador's, and not as having been in any way authorized or prompted by the Imperial Government, and that in your account of the interview your Lordship had done Prince Labanoff every justice in noting this distinction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 385.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 19.)

(No. 295.)
My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, July 15, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform you, in reference to your telegram No. 298 instructing me to inquire whether the Russian Government would be inclined to concur in your proposed communication to the Porte relative to the April Memorandum and the cession of Dulcigno, that M. de Giers expressed himself perfectly satisfied with the terms of the projected note, and he has since intimated to me that the Emperor is ready to acquiesce in the procedure suggested by your Lordship.

M. de Giers inquired why the communication had first been submitted to the Austrian Government. I replied that I did not know, but that probably your Lordship apprehended that Austria might be less inclined than Russia to agree to your proposal.

M. de Giers concluded the interview by intimating his satisfaction with reference to your Lordship's reference to the term "force," but added generally that, after Russia's recent exertions, she preferred following in the wake of the other Powers to taking the initiative.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 386.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received July 19.)

(No. 619.)
My Lord,

Paris, July 16, 1880.

I HAD this evening the honour to receive from your Lordship the repetition of a telegram from Lord Odo Russell, from which it appeared that the German Government was quite willing to join in the proposed naval demonstration on the coast near Dulcigno.

I went directly to M. de Freycinet, and having communicated this intelligence to him, I said that I presumed it would remove all hesitation on his part, and that he would authorize me to inform your Lordship that France was ready to act with the other Powers.

M. de Freycinet answered, that by the participation of Germany in the naval demonstration one of his difficulties was removed, but that the other condition he had laid down was still unfulfilled—that nothing was said of the Greek frontier question.

I urged that it had been declared over and over again that this demonstration respecting Montenegro was part of the general plan for enforcing the execution of the Treaty of Berlin in all points. I observed that it could not fail to have a beneficial effect on the dispositions both of the Porte and of the Albanians with regard to the Greek frontier; and that it was in itself an earnest of the united action of the Powers with regard to the Greek question.

M. de Freycinet answered that he did not dispute this, but that what was necessary for him, with a view to public opinion in France, was an explicit assurance, that, in case of need, the same measure which had been adopted with regard to the Montenegrin question would be taken with regard to the Greek question. There was, he said, a strong feeling in France against committing the country to a measure of the kind; and he could not venture to announce that he had gone so far, unless he could at the same time distinctly say that he had done so, not for Montenegro alone, but for Greece also.

I observed to M. de Freycinet that with regard to the settlement of every question with the Porte, and with regard more especially to the settlement of the Greek question, the most disastrous thing which could happen would be a manifestation that the Six Powers could not be brought to a unanimous decision. I added that I could not help saying that France alone would be breaking up the European concert, if in the present case she stood out by herself against all the other Powers.

After further argument on both sides, M. de Freycinet wrote down for me a message which he begged me to convey to your Lordship. It was to the following effect:—

"Le Cabinet Français est prêt à donner son adhésion, mais il désirerait savoir s'il est bien entendu, comme il le suppose, que, le cas échéant, les six Puissances agiront pour les frontières Grecques comme pour le Monténégro."

M. de Freycinet said that if your Lordship would obtain for him from all the Powers an affirmative answer, the French Government would agree at once to the note and the demonstration, but that without an explicit assurance on the subject of Greece he would not face public opinion in this country.

He proceeded to argue that if the Powers were willing to give such an assurance it might be obtained in twenty-four or at most forty-eight hours; while on the other hand if any Power hesitated about giving it, this would show that the same Power would also hesitate, when the time came, to act in the Greek question.

I said at last that it appeared that there was nothing left for me but to convey his message to your Lordship; though it would, I feared, very much disappoint you.

I have already transmitted the substance of this despatch to your Lordship by telegraph.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 387.

Prince Lobanow to Earl Granville.—(Received July 19.)

Mon cher Comte,

Ce 17 Juillet, 1880.

JE m'empresse de vous communiquer le télégramme ci-joint que je reçois de M. de Giers.

Je vois par la réponse que Mr. Dilke a faite hier à une interpellation sur le conflit du 12, que vous devez avoir reçu des informations analogues à celles que je vous transmets.

Votre, &c.
(Signé) LOBANOW.

Inclosure in No. 387.

M. de Giers to Prince Lobanow.

(Télégraphique.)

St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{4}{16}$ Juillet, 1880.

SELON nos informations méritant toute confiance, le conflit du 12 de ce mois entre Albanais et Monténégrins doit être exclusivement imputé aux premiers, qui attaquèrent à l'improviste les faibles avant-postes Monténégrins de Goloubovtzi, dont l'un fut presque entièrement massacré.

Depuis cette agression, les bandes Albanaises augmentent sensiblement à Touzi, et prennent une attitude menaçante.

Nous avons chargé M. Novicow d'attirer la sérieuse attention de la Porte sur ces faits.

No. 388.

Pro-memorid communicated to Earl Granville by M. Hengelmüller, July 19, 1880.

WE have instructed our Representative in Athens to urge conjointly with his German colleague moderation on the Greek Cabinet, as it has already been done by England and France.

Our Chargé d'Affaires reports that he has obeyed his instructions, together with his German colleague, and that M. Tricoupi has promised not to mobilize without the consent of the Powers, but that he is very impatient, and trusts to obtain the consent of the Powers for the mobilization as soon as the Porte will have given her answer.

Our Chargé d'Affaires adds, that his Russian colleague has, without special order and on the strength of general instructions, very favourable to Greece, advised mobilization, which he personally considers to be in the interest of Greece.

Belgrave Square, July 19, 1880.

No. 389.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 19, 6 A.M.)

(No. 85.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, July* 18, 1880, 3 P.M.

I HAVE spoken to Minister for Foreign Affairs in sense of your Lordship's telegram No. 347, relative to the inutility of entertaining last proposal of the Porte respecting Montenegro, and consequent desirability of sending in simultaneous note in reply to note from the Porte. At first his Excellency repeated reasons given yesterday, as reported in my telegram No. 84, for Porte's proposal should be accepted [*sic*], saying that, by Powers insisting upon immediate execution, the object of the Porte, if it was only seeking a further pretext for delay, would be thus thwarted. He was confirmed in these reasons by a telegram from Count Corti, stating that the Albanians did not intend to defend Dulcigno, but were concentrating inland for an attack on Montenegro, which a simple naval demonstration would be unable [?] to avert, and, consequently, Montenegro might be annihilated while the ships of the Powers were looking on unable to render any assistance. But just as I was leaving, a further telegram arrived from Count Corti, whose opinion had been asked, stating that the Porte's last proposal was not serious, that it was only another device for gaining time, that it would be difficult of execution and not be accepted by Montenegro, and that the Powers ought not to entertain it.

Under these circumstances, the Minister said he was ready to authorize sending in of simultaneous note, in compliance with your Lordship's suggestion; but he hopes every pressure will be brought upon the Porte to make naval demonstration unnecessary, for he doubts its efficacy, particularly after Count Corti's telegram first referred to, although he of course adheres to it should it at last be called for.

Having communicated the substance of Lord Lyons' telegram No. 54, Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me he was quite ready to give, on the part of the Italian Government, the assurance desired by M. de Freycinet that Italy "will act for the Greek frontier as for Montenegro," and your Lordship may state this to the French Government.

No. 390.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 19.)

(No. 63.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, July* 19, 1880.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs must communicate with the Chancellor before he can answer your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 291 and 294.

(Secret.)

French Government are intriguing against Dulcigno demonstration, both here and at St. Petersburgh.

No. 391.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 19, 1 P.M.)

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, July* 10, 1880.

IF the other Powers agree, French Government are willing that a Protocol should be signed by the Ambassadors at Constantinople, in the terms stated in your telegram No. 289.

No. 392.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 19, 1·15 P.M.)

(No. 58.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, July* 19, 1880, 10·30 A.M.

YOUR telegram No. 288.

M. de Freycinet is decidedly of opinion that the Powers should not enter into negotiations for another form of cession respecting Montenegrin frontier.

No. 393.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 287. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 19, 1880.

THE Queen sends the following message in French to the Sultan, which Musurus Bey has been requested to telegraph:—

"The lively interest I take in your country, which has so long been the ally of England, and the proofs of personal good-will which you have given me, and which are much reciprocated, induce me to express to you my firm hope that your Majesty will accede, even at the price of some sacrifices, to the unanimous wishes of Europe with regard to the complete accomplishment of the conditions of the Treaty of Berlin."

No. 393*.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.[*]

(No. 290.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 19, 1880, 4·30 P.M.

I HAVE to add to precedents of self-denying Agreements Article IV of Convention with France of the 10th April, 1854, p. 1194 of Hertslet's work.

No. 394.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.†

(No. 296.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 19, 1880, 7·40 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople No. 260 of the 14th, and his reply No. 127 of the 17th instant, ask Government to which you are accredited if they will instruct their Representative at Constantinople to make similar declaration to the Porte respecting Mussulman population.

No. 395.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 19, 8 P.M.)

(No. 105.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July* 19, 1880, 5 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 350.

Baron Haymerle does not consider that the Bulgarian Government have the slightest ground for refusing to recognize the Consular jurisdiction of Roumania.

Articles Nos. VIII and L of the Treaty of Berlin are, he thinks, quite conclusive in favour of Roumanian view, and he has already instructed the Austro-Hungarian Agent at Sophia to support it.

No. 396.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.‡

(No. 957.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 19, 1880.

I INCLOSE a copy of a despatch to Mr. Goschen, in which he is instructed to make a suggestion to the Porte that a guarantee to the Turkish proprietors of the possession of their

[*] Also to Sir H. Elliot (No. 355), Lord Odo Russell (No. 295), Sir A. Paget (No. 341), and the Earl of Dufferin (No. 373).

† Also to Lord Odo Russell (No. 302), Sir A. Paget (No. 346), and the Earl of Dufferin (No. 380).

‡ Also to Sir A. Paget, Lord Odo Russell, and the Earl of Dufferin

estates should be made a condition of the Sultan's acceptance of the Berlin Award; and to inform His Majesty of the instructions to Mr. Corbett of the 28th ultimo, bearing upon this subject.*

Mr. Goschen having by telegraph represented the importance of the Representatives of the other Powers making a similar declaration to the Porte, I have to request that you will inquire of the [French] Government whether they will instruct their Representative at Constantinople accordingly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 397.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 123. Confidential.)
Therapia, July 7, 1880.

My Lord,

THE position of Osman Pasha in the Government and at the Palace is so important, that it is perhaps worth while to mention a small incident which has occurred, bearing on the attitude towards England and towards reform, which he wishes to be understood to hold.

Your Lordship is aware that he is the mainstay of the fanatical party, that he has persistently opposed all foreign influence in matters great and small, that it is to his action that the difficulties which Baker Pasha has encountered and the non-employment of the English gendarmerie officers must be ascribed. I have not failed to hold the most open language with regard to him, and in the matter of the re-engagement of the gendarmerie officers which is now pending, I have told Cadri Pasha, Abédine Pasha, and also Musurus Pasha that if I did not carry my point I should know Osman Pasha was stronger than they were, and master of the situation. Also, I have commented in the strongest terms on the enormous pay which Osman Pasha is said to be receiving, while the pensions of widows and orphans are left unpaid, and no one can obtain payment for anything. Musurus Pasha, in the presence of two other Pashas, said, in reply, that I must remember how necessary Osman Pasha was to the Sultan, who relied on him for his personal safety. To which I replied, "Then I am to understand that Osman Pasha's loyalty to his Sovereign must be bought." I quote this remark to show your Lordship how openly and how severely I have thought it right to speak of the Minister of War.

Two days afterwards Osman Pasha came up to Sir Alfred Sandison at the Palace, and, in a manner quite changed from his usual demeanour, which is of a reserve towards foreigners almost amounting to rudeness, said that he had been most unjustly misrepresented as being anti-English and an anti-reformer; that Sir Henry Layard had erroneously formed an incorrect opinion of him, and he feared the present Ambassador had been imbued with the same views, and he begged Sir A. Sandison to give me assurances of his complete conviction of the necessity of reform.

It is very possible that the meaning of this communication is, that Osman Pasha's position has at length been somewhat shaken, that he feels insecure, and wishes to stop the language which he knows I am holding with regard to him. If it is so, it would afford an indication that the party of resistance to European influence is itself somewhat weaker. I am under the impression that a change for the better in this respect is observable in several directions.

Your Lordship may be interested by another small incident bearing on the character of Turkish statesmen.

Mr. St. John was talking to Artin Effendi, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, with regard to the navigation of the Tigris, and the refusal of the Porte to allow the barges to ply, which Messrs. Lynch had put on the river. Mr. St. John spoke strongly of the conduct of the Porte in thus curtailing the means of carriage of corn, while the English were sending large contributions in money to the famine-stricken districts. Artin Effendi grasped Mr. St. John's hand, and thanked him warmly, telling him that he himself was an Armenian, and, he added, what indeed I have heard from other sources, but refused to believe, that Said Pasha had purposely delayed instructions to give facilities for carriage of corn, as he also had delayed the authorization of a charitable lottery, of which the proceeds were to be employed in relief in the famine districts, with the avowed object of reducing the number of the Armenians by starvation. Artin Effendi concluded by saying that Said Pasha was a "demon," and that he was sorry to say he was still continually at

* No. 281.

the Palace, exercising a pernicious influence. This conversation took place at an official interview, within the precincts of the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 398.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 128.)
Therapia, July 11, 1880.

My Lord,

IF I have thus far not addressed your Lordship with reference to that portion of my instructions which related to the calling together of the Turkish Parliament, it has not been owing to my underrating the great importance of the question. Your Lordship will have observed that I brought the subject incidentally to the notice of the Sultan when he entered upon a discussion with me of his personal responsibility, and on other occasions I have sounded several of the Ministers as to what opinion they held on the expediency of at once calling Parliament together. One of the most powerful and shrewdest of the Ministers stated his opinion to be that in the present condition of the Greek and Albanian question public discussions of these matters of foreign policy would create additional embarrassments, that patriotic and violent speeches would be made, and that the difficulties of the more conciliatory portion of the Ministry would be increased. The objections of calling a Parliament together without a change in the electoral law which would strengthen the Christian minority, now diminished by the loss of the Christian provinces such as Bulgaria, have also been brought to my notice.

Without denying that some reforms must necessarily accompany the revival of the Constitution, and that the present moment, while the Greek and Montenegrin questions are almost exclusively absorbing the Government, is one of peculiar difficulty, I nevertheless thought it right to bring the matter officially to the notice of the Prime Minister and of Abédine Pasha. The former was somewhat reserved in his reply. He stated that he, personally, was thinking over the expediency of summoning a Parliament, but that he could tell me nothing more. Abédine Pasha went somewhat further. He told me confidentially that three Ministers, of whom Kadri Pasha and he were two, were in favour of reviving the Constitutions; that it was impossible to maintain the present position under which nominally laws had to be framed by a Parliament while no Parliament was summoned; that either they must go back to a purely despotic form of Government, or they must go forward and carry out the Constitution; that the former step was impossible, and that, therefore, he considered the latter the only available course open to the Government. On my inquiring whether the third Minister in favour of the Constitution was Mahmoud Nedim, he replied in the negative.

I explained both to Kadri and Abédine Pasha what I considered to be the arguments in favour of a Parliament, and I expressly dwelt on the strength which a reforming Ministry might find in such a body against Palace influence or other obstructions.

Personally, I am of opinion that in the interest of public order, and in the interest especially of the populations of the distant provinces, even an imperfect representative body might be capable of rendering signal services.

I shall not fail to return to the subject very soon, and to speak to the Sultan himself, but I am not very sanguine of any good being done till the foreign complications are solved.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 399.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 129.) *Therapia, July 11, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Lordship's information, the documents relative to military matters.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 399.

Captain Swaine to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 26.) *Therapia, July 7, 1880.*

Sir,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 24 of this year I have now the honour to give your Excellency further details respecting the organization of the new Army Corps.

Their composition is as follows:—

An Army Corps has 2 divisions of infantry, 1 division of cavalry, 1 regiment of artillery, 1 pioneer battalion, 1 train battalion.

The division of infantry has 2 brigades and 1 rifle battalion.

The brigade has 2 regiments of 4 battalions each of 4 companies. The rifle battalion has 4 companies.

The division of cavalry has 2 brigades of 3 regiments each of 4 squadrons.

The regiment of artillery has 4 battalions each of 4 batteries. Of these 4 are mountain batteries (7-centim. guns); 3 are horse artillery batteries (8-centim. guns); 3 are field batteries (8-centim. guns); 6 are field batteries (9-centim. guns).

The pioneer battalion has 4 companies—2 are sappers and miners, and are only employed on fortifications; 1 is a pioneer company for employment in roads and bridge-making; 1 is a pontoon company.

The train battalion has 3 companies, but the details of its organization are not yet settled.

The establishment of the different units is as follows:—

	Peace.	War.
The Battalion	300 men.	1,000 men.
Squadron	100 „	150 „
Battery	4 guns.	8 guns.

This raises an Army Corps in round numbers to 40,000 men and 96 guns.

In addition to the six Army Corps districts there will be a territorial army of 32 battalions of infantry for Yemen; 7 battalions of infantry for Crete; 3 battalions of infantry for Tripoli (Africa); 1 regiment of cavalry for Tripoli (Africa).

The infantry and rifles will serve 2 years with colours, 4 in the reserve of the active army, 4 in the 1st and 4 in the 2nd ban of Redifs, and 6 in the Mustafiz.

The cavalry, artillery, engineers, and marines will serve 4 years with the colours and only 2 years in the reserve of the active army, after which they will serve in the reserves the same as the infantry.

The sailors for the fleet will serve 5 years actively, 3 years in the 1st reserve and 4 years in the 2nd.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LEOPOLD V. SWAINE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 399.

Memorandum.

(Confidential.)

CONSIDERABLE activity has been remarked at the Seraskeriate and Tophané in view of a war with Greece.

The following are items of information obtained on what may be considered good authority:—

1. Two battalions of recruits were dispatched yesterday—one to Volo, the other to Salonica.

2. Four new Krupp guns were shipped from the Dardanelles on Tuesday last.

3. Six batteries field artillery were sent from Gallipoli to Salonica in the course of last week.

4. Two thousand copies of maps of the Greco-Turkish frontier provinces are being printed for distribution among the officers of the army.

My information states, moreover, that a strong warlike spirit exists in the army, especially amongst the officers who are now on half-pay, and who receive no rations, and that orders have been sent to the military authorities of Konia, Kutchia, &c., to hold in readiness the Redifs (troops of the reserve) of the ban.

(Signed) A. SANDISON.

Therapia, July 9, 1880.

Inclosure 3 in No. 399.

Captain Swaine to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 27.) *Therapia, July 13, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I yesterday paid my official visits to the new Minister of War, Hussein Husni Pasha, to the new Commander of the 1st Army Corps, Kurd Ismail Pasha, and to the new Chief of the Staff, Ali Nizami Pasha.

Not much is known of the administrative capacity of Hussein Pasha, nor had he any opportunity of showing himself a great General during the war. Ghazi Osman Pasha acknowledged himself no administrator, and as the new scheme, on which the army is now being reorganized, clipped his wings and deprived him of all executive power, I am told that he is not sorry to have been relieved of his functions as Minister of War. There are rumours abroad that, in case of certain eventualities, he is to have a command; but I do not think that there is any settled post for him at present beyond that he retains that of Marshal of the Palace, which he has held for some time.

Kurd Ismail Pasha commanded a division during the late war, and will be remembered in connection with the fighting before Erzeroum.

Ali Nizami Pasha was President of the Army Reorganization Committee. He passed through the Turkish Staff College, and was for some time Military Attaché in Paris. Although a Mussulman he is married to an Austrian lady.

None of the three have made their mark as great soldiers, and it is much commented upon that when a change of War Minister was being made neither Ghazi Moukhtar Pasha nor Réouf Pasha were selected for the vacant post, but that the choice should have fallen on a man who could show no particular military antecedents as a justification, and who, being only a Ferik (Lieutenant-General), had to be raised to the rank of Mushir (Field Marshal) to qualify him for the post.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LEOPOLD V. SWAINE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 399.

Captain Swaine to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 28. Confidential.) *Therapia, July 13, 1880.*

Sir,

BLUHM PASHA returned from his visit of inspection to the Dardanelles on Saturday morning, and yesterday I went to see him.

The Pasha was most friendly, as he always is to me, and, after some preliminary conversation, himself volunteered to read me the Report he was going to submit.

He stated that he had been sent down to inspect the forts with a view to seeing whether or not it was absolutely necessary to build additional batteries, or, by altering or enlarging some of those already in existence, the Straits would be sufficiently well defended to prevent a hostile fleet from passing in.

Bluhm arrived at the conclusion that it would be better to build ten additional

batteries. Two of these are on the Asiatic side, behind "Nagara Kaleh-si;" the remainder on the European side between a spur to the north of "Bokali Kaleh-si" and the small stream below "Kilid Bahr," called "Avouzlar." I attach a rough sketch of the map which the Pasha gave me, and on which he marked the sites of the proposed new batteries.

Each battery is to have at least two (but he has recommended three) long 15-centim. Krupp guns.

But he adds that as there is no material at hand for their construction, and as the sites are in almost every instance on the bare rock, he calculates that it would be impossible to finish all ten before the end of October.

I also inquired about the condition of Fort Namazieh. He stated that it was not yet completed. It would have thirty or thirty-one guns when finished, and would be very strong. At present the cavalier was not yet begun, and it was to hold either five or six guns. He put its present number of guns down at twenty-four or twenty-five.

When I asked him about the state of the defence of the Dardanelles, he gave it as his opinion that although there were large forts with powerful artillery in them on both banks, that their strength was much discounted by the inefficiency of the gunners. It appears they never practise. He thought that out of the 2,300 men quartered in the different forts along the Straits, far from enough for the efficient management of the artillery in them, 1,000 were raw recruits who had never seen a shot fired, while the remainder might have had a certain amount of training. But if these new forts were to be built, the recruits as well as the other men would be put to work on them, and thus all the time that should be devoted to instruction would be passed in digging, picking, and blasting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LEOPOLD V. SWAINE.

Inclosure 5 in No. 399.

Rough Sketch showing position of proposed ten new batteries.

Inclosure 6 in No. 399.

Captain Swaine to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 29.) *Therapia, July* 13, 1880.

Sir,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 25 of this year, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that there are many reports of troops moving through Constantinople towards Salonica and Volo.

Although indirectly these are preparations for war, yet, on the other hand, they can be easily disowned, as the Turks are discharging men as fast almost as they are being recruited.

The explanation of this I conceive to be the following:—I reported to your Excellency in a former despatch that the reorganization, not alone of the three Army Corps in Europe, was almost finished, but that the cadres of the First Reserve were also complete. The men who are now discharged have served more than their regular time, and should be already in the First Reserve. By withdrawing them from those regiments and sending them home, at the same time as they are filling up their places by men recruited at their regimental head-quarters, and thus keeping up the actual strength under arms, they are securing trained men in case of necessity for the reserve, the cadres of which are ready to receive them.

Thus, although large numbers of recruits have lately been called out, so also have considerable percentage of men been discharged. On the whole, however, more have joined than have been sent away, and it was calculated that, on the 1st instant, there were altogether 139,000 men in the Turkish army drawing rations.

In addition to these preparations I may mention Bluhm Pasha's sudden order to inspect the defences of the Dardanelles, of which I have given a report in another despatch. In connection with the interest shown at present in the defence of those Straits, I must add that the Turkish Admiralty have recommended the purchase of fifteen swift Thornycroft built boats to use the Whitehead torpedo, as a supplementary defence; electro-contact torpedoes on the Russian pattern are also recommended to be placed in certain localities to be determined on by a Committee.

The Torpedo Committee at Tophané (Arsenal) has also been revived in the last ten days, and is to draw up plans for the defence of all ports, passages, and harbours. The Naval Commission, which is independent of this one, has sent in a strong Report advocating the adoption of the Whitehead torpedo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LEOPOLD V. SWAINE.

No. 400.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 20.)

(No. 131. Confidential.) *Therapia, July* 12, 1880.

My Lord,

I OBSERVE from Sir Henry Elliot's despatch No. 283, Confidential, of the 5th ultimo, that M. de Kallay had spoken to him with reference to the possibility of Mussulmans and Christians living together on satisfactory terms, and had expressed an opinion diametrically opposed to that of M. Novikow, who had spoken to me of the impossibility of such satisfactory relations. I reported the Russian Ambassador's view to your Lordship in my despatch No. 6 of the 31st May last.

I have now the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Novikow lately took an opportunity of returning to the subject, and of explaining away what he had said to me on the previous occasion. He brought the subject up himself, and alluding to his remark about the impossibility of races belonging to the two religions living together, stated that he had made that remark as a philosopher ("en philosophe") not as a politician. He based that philosophical view on the acknowledged principle of the Mussulmans that they were a superior race. While retaining their superiority they would be kind and humane to others, whom they looked on as inferiors; but to accept a position as inferiors themselves was so contrary to their religion and to every tradition of their race, that they could not endure such a lot. M. Novikow begged me not to suppose that he applied these historical truths in any special political way to Eastern Roumelia.

I observe that I did not mark my despatch No. 6 as Confidential, but looking to the unreserved and somewhat compromising expressions which the Russian Ambassador used on that occasion, I should scarcely think it right that it should be published without certain omissions, especially as his Excellency has wished to explain away to some extent what he then said.

I take this opportunity of further informing your Lordship that in the same conversation with M. Novikow, in which he gave the above explanations, he alluded to the assassin of Colonel Commerow, who has not yet suffered the penalty of his crime.

His Excellency assured me that he was about to take up the question again with vigour, and that he hoped he might count on my support. I informed him that I did not doubt that I should be able to give such support, firstly, because the security of Christian life at Constantinople was a matter of deep interest to the Representatives of all the European Powers; and secondly, because in all matters, wherever it was possible, Her Majesty's Government were anxious to act in concert with other Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 401.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 20.)

(No. 132.) *Therapia, July* 12, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of despatches addressed by Mr. Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Lascelles respecting the state of affairs at Rustchuk.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 401.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Lascelles.

Rustchuk, July 3, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that yesterday, accompanied by my Italian colleague, I visited the fortress of Levan-Tabia.

We found there a guard of about six soldiers, and the same four large Krupps which I saw on my last visit. We went all over the place as far as permitted, *i.e.*, the two end casemates, consisting each of six vaulted chambers communicating, which were empty; but we were not allowed to go into the middle casemate, which consists of four chambers on each side of a central archway; all the eight have had new doors put on them, and we were told they contained a large quantity of dynamite; they must either contain a very large quantity, or there may be other ammunition as well, for all the eight doors were locked, and the storage space is very considerable.

As to the remainder of the fortress, it is rather more ruinous than it was; the ravages of time and the weather have not been repaired, and all the small magazines in the traverses are more or less filled up with earth, the props sticking out here and there. The two large constructions which were on each side of the entrance are now completely cleared away.

I am informed on very good authority that during the week preceding our visit a large amount of stores were removed, also a battery of eight guns, and as the circumstances are a little singular, I will here relate them.

During my absence at Sophia, on the 2nd ultimo, an Englishman who happened to be here asked the Italian Vice-Consul to procure him leave to visit Levan-Tabia. The Italian Vice-Consul being himself desirous of seeing the place, went to see the Governor on the subject; not being able to find the Governor, he saw the Chief of Police, who at his request wrote a note to the Commandant of Artillery Kolenski for permission, and sent it by the Italian cavass. Kolenski refused to grant permission. The Italian Vice-Consul made several ineffectual attempts during the next few days to get permission from the Governor, and on the 6th applied to the Russian Consul to help him; the latter promised to do so, but nothing came of it; so on the 13th he applied again to the Governor for a permanent authority to go when he pleased. Again he had no reply, and on the 20th he wrote the Russian Consul that since the 6th he had heard nothing from him, and had no satisfaction.

The Russian Consul then called on him and told him that an officer would be sent to him, but as before nothing came of it all until the 29th, when, knowing what had happened, I made an official application to the Governor to send me an escort that day at 5 P.M.; at 5 P.M. I had a note from the Governor's Secretary, saying that they had applied to the Commandant Kolenski, but were without reply. At this time the Minister of War was in town. I found the Secretary, and told him I hoped that they would not try to play with me, otherwise I would be forced to complain to you, and in effect they wrote again to Kolenski.

On the 1st I was still without a reply, but the Russian Consul, who seems to have been consulted all through, told my Italian colleague that the following day an escort would be sent for him and for me, as in fact it was.

As I have had the honour to point out on several occasions, the permanent parts of the modern fortifications at Rustchuk and Shumla have not in any case been destroyed, and here we have an instance of eight new doors being put on, and the place confessedly turned into a magazine for dynamite for the army, which is certainly not carrying out the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 401.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Lascelles.

Rustchuk, July 5, 1880.

Sir,

I AM sorry to have to state that it has been long evident that there is not proper security for life and property in Rustchuk. Every morning brings its recital of robberies or murders perpetrated the preceding night, so that now no one thinks of asking if there had been any such acts, but rather at once asks, How many robberies last night?

A fortnight ago a poor Turkish woman was found by her husband, on returning from his daily work, hanging to the rafters of her own house quite dead, and the house pillaged. The police on this occasion captured three gipsy women on suspicion, but nobody believes that they were the culprits, and probably they will be discharged later on. What people do believe and say is that the police are bought by the miscreants who prowl about.

This very day a Turkish "Hodja" called on me to complain of the general state of insecurity, but especially that an old woman living near him was robbed of 15,000 piastres. He also said that now not more than two or three persons ever come to evening prayers, as they are afraid to go out at night, either they will be met by robbers or by the patrol, and it matters very little which. In the one case they will be robbed, in the other they will be robbed too, and thrown into prison all night on suspicion of being robbers themselves.

He called my attention to the fact that in about a month the Turkish fast of Ramazan would be on, when it was their religious duty to fast all day, to eat and pray during the night, and he asked me what I thought would happen.

One night last week a sailor from the fleet went without leave to visit his sweetheart; for security he changed his cap, but whilst he was in the act of knocking at the door he was challenged by a gendarme. Afraid to be found absent without leave, he fled, and the zaptieh, taking good aim, fired and brought him down with a wound in the leg. He is now in hospital very ill, unable to make a deposition, and it seems the police consider the zaptieh did his duty.

The other day there was a report that 100 Turkish brigands were in an island opposite the railway-station. At once the Governor, Natchanlik, and a large force of gendarmes went there, accompanied by several steam-launches. I believe they caught four fishermen, whom they put in prison charged with being contrabandists, and that they either saw or suspected that there were others in the brushwood, but wanted the courage to search for them. This happened when the Minister of War was here.

My Greek colleague told me that he had questioned two (Greek) gendarmes who had returned from Rasgrad district, and they told him that there were certainly some Turkish brigands, but for their part they had no wish to get killed seeking for them, as their Bulgar fellows would not accompany them, still less would the regular troops; that the *modus operandi* was for the regulars to remain in reserve and send the gendarmes in front as skirmishers. The latter, after getting well out of sight, blazed away all their ammunition and then returned without having captured any brigands. Perhaps General Ehrenrodt, who was there, had his own reasons for not taking other steps; at all events such was the tale told to M. Ionides.

I have on many occasions spoken to the Acting Governor and the Police-Meister as to the general insecurity; they admit, for they can't deny, the facts in question, but it is always the same story, "The police are looking for the malefactors, but have not yet found them."

The Governor told me to-day that they have only eighty zaptiehs, of whom half are for day and half for night service; that, as they have to guard the river and the railway, there are very few for the town; that, under the impression that the Turkish quarter was very quiet after nightfall, the rest had been kept in the Bulgar quarter. Some time ago they wanted to add a sort of volunteer patrol for night service, but the citizens objected. Then they got a detachment of soldiers, but General Ehrenrodt objected to soldiers being so employed, and forbade it.

It is very easy for the Minister of War to object and forbid, but I submit that it is necessary to find a remedy, and I do not see why a municipal policeman should be made to do duty as a coastguardsman if a soldier can't do police duty.

I mentioned to one of the principal authorities the other day my opinion that the police was worse than useless. He replied, "Well, I confess it is so, and I don't understand why, for the Police-Meister is very active, and does not want brains." This is true to some extent, only it has always seemed to me that the Police-Meister was too fond of promenading about, in carriage, on horseback, or afoot, in the public gardens or in the café chantant, very well dressed, with fine silver belts, silver-mounted sword, &c., and that in fact he had an erroneous idea of his duties. The aforesaid functionary also said that "he thought the Police-Meister had too much confidence in his subordinates, who were incapable." This may be so, but surely the first duty of a Police-Meister is to choose capable subordinates.

I do not ask you to get the Police-Meister cashiered, that is an accomplished fact; but I think it would be right that some proper inquiry should be made into his previous actings, and that some steps should be taken to appoint a capable successor.

I am sorry to say that I have formed the opinion that there is a sort of trades' union

arrangement amongst all the authorities here, in consequence of the late measures agreed to by the Skuptchina, to allow all sorts of evils to increase, so that it may appear that only highly-paid functionaries are fit to cope with them, and it will doubtless be known to you that, as yet, no one has been found to accept the new posts of "Prefect" and "Pristoff" here at the salaries voted by the Chamber.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 401.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Lascelles.

Rustchuk, July 7, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that yesterday morning the steamer "Opit," towing a lighter, embarked the Drouzina of Lom-Palanka, and started for that port.

I was told by a Russian naval officer that there were 800 men, but I estimated them myself at rather under 400.

I am informed that a corps of volunteers is now being organized at Tirnovo for service in connection with the wished-for union of the two provinces, and that from 350 to 400 men have been enrolled; also that it is intended to fill it up to 4,000 if possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

No. 402.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 138.)

Therapia, July 12, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the translation of a petition which I have received from certain persons styling themselves "the Notables of the town of Janina and adjoining districts," expressing their desire for annexation to Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 402.

Petition.

(Traduction.)

A son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de la Grande Bretagne auprès de la Sublime Porte.

Excellence,

LE mode de procéder de la Sublime Porte par rapport à l'exécution du Traité de Berlin est connu à votre Excellence ainsi qu'à tout le monde. Il consiste dans l'emploi de toute espèce de manœuvres et d'intrigues trompeuses, en vue de l'annulation des décisions Européennes contenues dans le susdit Acte.

C'est ainsi que dans notre pays aussi, dès le commencement de la question Turco-Grecque elle n'a pas cessé d'agir de la susdite manière afin d'atteindre le même but, et nous avons eu soin par des pétitions précédentes d'en informer les Gouvernements des Grandes Puissances. A l'heure qu'il est, elle convoque encore ici des Albanais afin de créer une question Albanaise lorsque ni dans la ville ni dans la Province de Janina il n'y a un seul habitant Albanais et pas même un homme qui parle la langue de cette race, mais que tous sont Grecs Orthodoxes, ne parlant que le Grec, sans excepter même les Ottomans peu nombreux qui habitent la ville de Janina.

Ainsi le Gouvernement d'ici, ayant fait venir quelques Albanais Notables, leur permet de tenir des réunions en plein jour dans des maisons de Notables Ottomans et dans des endroits publics tels que mosquées, &c.

Dans ces réunions auxquelles prennent part aussi beaucoup d'officiers de l'armée Impériale, sous le prétexte de collection d'argent destiné à ceux des Albanais qui ont souffert à la suite de leurs luttes avec les Monténégrins, des influences de toute espèce sont mises en œuvre afin d'inculquer aux Ottomans non Albanais du pays, les idées Albanaises et préparer ainsi la résistance à l'exécution du Traité de Berlin.

En outre, tandis que jusqu'à présent les poursuites des brigands et la sûreté du pays n'étaient confiées par l'autorité qu'à l'armée régulière, inopinément, depuis quelque temps elle rassemble tous les jours des bandes d'irréguliers Albanais auxquelles, en donnant, pour sauver les apparences, des habits de soldat, elle les envoie à différentes localités de notre malheureuse province, sous le prétexte peu plausible de la poursuite des brigands, et leur donne pour chefs des ex-chefs de bandits et des armes et munitions. Le but de la concentration d'irréguliers Albanais dans la Province de Janina et l'occupation par eux des positions stratégiques importantes n'est autre que celui de la résistance armée à l'annexion des pays adjugés à la Grèce par le Traité de Berlin, et l'effet immédiat de la dispersion dans la province de cette bande d'irréguliers est la destruction complète de la sûreté des malheureux habitants. A peine ces bandes sont sorties de la ville que les meurtres et les spoliations commencèrent à être à l'ordre du jour, attendu que l'autorité leur fournit une ration de pain si insuffisante qu'après une petite marche il leur manque totalement, et lorsque dans leur détresse ils demandent où auront-ils à s'en pourvoir, ils reçoivent pour réponse, où ils veulent et comme ils peuvent. Quant à l'élément Chrétien, des sentiments duquel les Soussignés sont les fidèles représentants, voyant toutes ces intrigues employées en vue de faire échouer ses légitimes désirs sanctionnés par le Traité de Berlin, et que son honneur, sa fortune, et sa vie, sont menacés par ces spoliateurs étrangers de l'Albanie, qui lui sont imposés comme gardiens, et ne pouvant pas prendre des mesures de défense tandis que l'autorité ne permet pas au Chrétien de porter des armes pour sa propre sûreté, et que la loi martiale n'est en vigueur que pour lui seul, il s'empresse par cette humble pétition de rappeler respectueusement aux Gouvernements des Grandes Puissances qu'il n'y a que la prompte et juste solution de la question Greco-Turque qui puisse prévenir des luttes fatales et l'effusion de sang que le Gouvernement Ottoman semble préparer pour la destruction complète de ce malheureux pays, déjà si rudement éprouvé par le brigandage, ainsi que la surveillance incessante dans l'intervalle des démarches de l'autorité jusqu'à ce que l'union désirée des pays cédés à la Grèce soit réalisée.

Dans l'espoir que l'objet de notre pétition sera prise en sérieuse considération par le Gouvernement de votre Excellence, dont les sentiments de justice et d'humanité sont notoires, nous avons, &c.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Janina, le 21 Mai, 1880.

No. 403.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 144. Confidential.)

Therapia, July 13, 1880.

My Lord,

I CALLED on Abédine Pasha yesterday morning with a view to express to him my disappointment at the little progress which is being made in any direction in the way of reforms. But I began the conversation by commenting on the men who have been chosen to succeed Osman Pasha and Dervisch Pasha, as announced to your Lordship in my telegram No. 110 of the 10th instant. I stated that the appointment at such a moment as the present of a General who had been Vice-President of the Albanian League as Minister of War, might almost be called an act of defiance, and with regard to Kurd Ismail Pasha, who had been given a high post, it was a strange moment to select a Kurd for such a position, when the Armenian question was entering upon a most important stage. These were symptoms of what influences were uppermost. His Excellency had little to say in reply, except that Kurd Ismail Pasha was, though unable to read and write, an honest and vigorous man, and that if I inquired among the Armenians I should find his reputation was not such as had been reported to me.

His Excellency gave me no explanations of the causes which had led to Osman Pasha's removal from the Ministry of War. I should add that many different versions are afloat, but there is none which appears sufficiently authenticated to warrant me in reporting it. Meanwhile Osman Pasha remains Marshal of the Palace.

As regards the gendarmerie question, Abédine Pasha gave me to understand that he hoped it would now be rapidly and satisfactorily settled. Osman Pasha's objections had been the great difficulty.

The main conversation, however, of my conversation yesterday was the state of the Asiatic provinces generally, and the absence of any visible improvements since the accession of the present Ministers. I asked Abédine Pasha to convey to his colleagues that while the present Ministry used fairer words and made more hopeful professions, I could

see no outward change of any kind since Said's fall. No new Governor-General of ability had been appointed. No incapable men had been dismissed. The rumour seemed to be thoroughly justified that Said Pasha's influence, though unseen, was still supreme; that no general had been sent to Kurdistan with peremptory orders to put down Kurdish misdoings; that the Government seemed only intent on explaining away complaints instead of meeting them. His Excellency was much cast down, and stated that he himself was in despair at the little progress made. The system of doing business in the Council involved such interminable delays that nothing went forward, but that, as one new to Ministerial work, he could not exercise any authority in changing it. His more experienced colleagues said that the system of passing everything through the Council gave solidity to the Administration, but that, as regards himself, even if all the Angels of Heaven or Prince Bismarck and Mr. Gladstone together, were to tell him that the present system was wise, he would refuse to be convinced. He often wished he was again a Governor-General, but he could not lay down his present post in the midst of the great existing dangers. I replied that if, as Minister, he could effect no reforms, while, as Governor-General, he had effected real good, I should share his wish that he should not be Minister for Foreign Affairs but be back again in a sphere where he would render services.

I added that my object in speaking to him on the present situation was not to reproach him personally, but as the organ of the Turkish Government. It appeared to be impossible that things could go on as at present, and I repeated my wish that he should inform his colleagues very fully of what I said.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 404.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 306.) *Philippopoli, July 7, 1880.*

My Lord,

COLONEL WILSON, who arrived at Philippopoli last Friday, set out this morning on his tour of inspection through the province, accompanied by Mr. Block.

Colonel Wilson proposes to first visit Tehirpan, Eski-Zaghra, Kezanlik, Carlova, and Tatar-Bazardjik, whence he intends to proceed into Macedonia, returning via Batak along the foot of the Rhodope Mountains to Philippopoli, where he will remain a day prior to starting for the Eastern districts.

In requesting M. Crestovitch to facilitate the object of Colonel Wilson's journey, I was careful to point out to him that the inquiry about to be made was intended in no hostile spirit to the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia, and I am happy to inform your Lordship that the reception given to Colonel Wilson here was apparently very cordial.

Visits were paid to him by the heads of Departments and by the leading Bulgarians of the town, many of whom expressed to me their satisfaction at his proposed journey.

The general nature of Colonel Wilson's mission, and the fact of his intention of also visiting Macedonia, have conduced, I think, considerably towards allaying the resentment which might otherwise have been felt on the subject by the Bulgarian section of the population.

M. Crestovitch has supplied Colonel Wilson with a Circular note addressed to the Prefects and Baillis directing them to facilitate the object of his journey by every means in their power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

P.S. *July* 9.—Since writing the above, the inclosed article has appeared in the "Maritza" commenting favourably on Colonel Wilson's mission to this province.

A. C. S.

No. 405.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 309. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, July 10, 1880.*

YOUR Lordship is aware from Mr. Michell's despatches of the circumstances under which the secret Societies in this province were first established, and of the measures adopted by the Governor-General for their suppression. I will, therefore, confine myself in this despatch to submitting to your Lordship the information I have obtained since my arrival here, with regard to the recent changes which have taken place in the plans of the advanced section of the Bulgarian population of this province, from which the members of these Societies may be said to have been recruited. I will, however, point out to your Lordship beforehand the three periods traceable in the course which the agitation in the province has taken from the moment it became positively known that the provisions of the Treaty of San Stefano were not to be put into execution.

The first period may be said to have extended to the late advent of the Liberal Ministry in England to power; the second—which was of the shortest duration—terminated at the meeting at Slivno; and the third, it appears, is to owe its origin to that same meeting. It is only with respect to the last of these three, for the reason I have already expressed, that I would venture to make some remarks. As soon as it became evident to the Bulgarians, from the language of the Prime Minister in the House of Commons, that the sympathy which Her Majesty's Government entertained for the aspirations of the Christian nationalities of the Balkan Peninsula was dependent on the good use they made of the emancipation Europe had secured for them, a meeting was called at Slivno with a view to deciding what policy should be pursued. From information which I have received from three different sources, it would appear that during this meeting, at which two Delegates from the Principality were present, the military resources of Eastern Roumelia were particularly discussed, and stress was laid on the importance of recommencing the weekly drilling of the Gymnasts lately drafted into the reserve. It was also decided, much to the annoyance of the Delegates from the Principality, not to press, under present circumstances, for an immediate union, but to make general preparations for any eventuality or crisis which might occur in the East. It was likewise decided to remove the Central Secret Committee from Philippopoli to Slivno, where its movements would be less likely to be observed. In addition to these decisions, I have been told by a person usually well informed, that it was proposed to extend the agitation to Macedonia.

Although the above-mentioned points probably constituted the programme adopted at this meeting, there is good reason to believe that an important modification in it has subsequently been made. The reiterated and urgent appeals on the part of the Principality for an immediate union have, it would seem, had the effect of producing a certain feeling of distrust and rivalry in the minds of the Bulgarians of this province. In the place of the marked solicitude previously so visible here for a union with the Principality, a desire for distinct independence has recently taken root in certain circles in the province. This change of opinion, I would venture to suggest, may be traced in the demeanour of the less prominent members of the Administration, who are beginning to be afraid lest, in the formation of an united Government, their present comparative importance might altogether be lost. It is not improbable, moreover, that the more thoughtful leaders of the Bulgarian party, mindful of the union ultimately effected between the formerly independent provinces of Wallachia and Moldavia, may encourage this view, in the hope of its proving more acceptable to Europe. It may therefore be, perhaps, reasonably concluded that there are two prime motives influencing the action of the advanced party, viz., political and selfish motives, the former of these inclining to patriotic dreams of united nationality, the latter to personal advancement.

The action of the Porte in not approving certain recent nominations of Bulgarians to posts in the Administration has tended possibly to encourage this yearning for complete independence on the part of some individuals. Nor is it altogether an improbable supposition that the members of the Administration of Eastern Roumelia, who consider the tenure of their functions dependent alone on the will of the Sultan, will secretly agitate for a state of things which may place beyond dispute their claims to office.

It is also a significant fact that the issue of the Greek question is being watched with marked attention, and that there is ground to believe that a conflict between Greece and Turkey would be hailed here with delight. On the other hand, advent to office has considerably softened the violent views of many of the Roumelian Bulgarians, and it is not improbable, could the union spoken of be postponed for a few years, that the rivalry now

already evident would much increase. In such a case political dreams might temporarily be replaced by more solid plans for the development of the resources of the country, and the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia might perceive the good policy of conciliating the minorities in consideration of the valuable aid the latter might afford them in this respect. Unfortunately, there is reason to believe that there are foreign influences at work in the province unfavourable to so peaceful a solution. It appears from reliable information which has reached me that Russia has lately been impressing on the Bulgarians the importance, in their interests, of a union, before Austria has time to extend her influence southward, and advising them to be prepared for any event that may happen. Although there are signs that Russian counsels are no longer so acceptable to the Bulgarians as they previously were, this advice has not been, it would seem, without effect. Advantage has been taken of the Circular lately issued by General Streeker, copy of which I inclosed in my despatch No. , to resume at once the weekly drills. A further supply of cartridges has, it is rumoured, been distributed among the Bulgarian peasants, and I have been informed privately that a large number of flying sheets, containing a general call to arms, have been secretly prepared. The Greek workmen who previously supplied my informant with copies of the secret documents of the Gymnastic Societies having lately suddenly been dismissed, he has been unable to furnish me as yet with any definite evidence respecting this matter.

As political importance is not unfrequently attached to trivial incidents which occur in Eastern Roumelia, reports have to be received here with more than usual caution. As soon as I have been able to obtain more positive information I will not fail to address to your Lordship a further despatch on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 406.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 307.)
My Lord,

Philippopoli, July 9, 1880.

AT a final meeting held last Monday, the 5th July, the Central Committee of the Society in aid of the Refugees in Eastern Roumelia was dissolved.

The balance in hand of £ T. 11 and 87 piastres was given over to the late Vice-President for distribution among the poor. The archives of the Society were likewise confided to that gentleman's care.

I have the honour to inclose herewith the minutes of the meeting, together with thirty copies of the Report lately published by the Committee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

Inclosure in No. 406.

Extract from the "Philippopolis" of $\frac{\text{June 27}}{\text{July 9}}$, 1880.

Philippopoli, le 6 Juillet, 1880.

SOCIÉTÉ DE SECOURS AUX RÉFUGIÉS DE LA ROUMÉLIE ORIENTALE.

Procès-verbal de l'Assemblée Générale du 5 Juillet, 1880.

LA séance est ouverte à 11 heures moins un quart : sous la présidence du R. P. Alexandre Chilier, Vice-President du Comité Central.

Mr. Stephen, Secrétaire d'Ambassade, Chargé du Consulat-Général d'Angleterre, est introduit et prend place parmi les membres du Comité en remplacement de Mr. Michell.

M. le Président expose le but de l'Assemblée, qui est de prendre connaissance du Rapport de fin d'exercice du Comité Central, de recevoir le compte de ses opérations, le tout en exécution de l'Article 15 des Statuts, enfin de décider s'il importe de dissoudre le Comité Central ou de le maintenir en fonctions.

M. le Président constate que la dit Assemblée Générale a été annoncée dans les journaux et par circulaire dans les délais voulus, et que cependant à l'exception de ceux qui composaient le Comité Central, aucun des membres de la Société ne s'est rendu à l'invitation qui avait été publiée dans les journaux. Cette absence est regrettable. Il est cependant décidé qu'elle ne doit pas interrompre le cours de l'Assemblée Générale.

Il est donné acte au Bureau de l'accomplissement des formalités nécessaires à la convocation régulière de cette Assemblée.

Le solde des fonds en caisse est de £ T. 11 87 piastres.

Les membres présents décident :

1. Que le Comité Central est dissous.

2. Que les archives seront déposées chez M. le Vice-Président.

3. Que le solde en caisse, déduction faite des frais de poste pour l'envoi du Rapport de fin d'exercice, sera remis entre les mains de M. le Vice-Président lequel le distribuera aux pauvres.

Les membres présents de l'Assemblée Générale, vérification faite des recettes et des dépenses, constatent l'exactitude des comptes fournis, les approuvent et en donnent décharge à qui de droit.

Pendant un délai de huit jours, à dater de la publication du présent procès-verbal dans les feuilles locales, les comptes du Comité Central seront à la disposition de tous les membres de la Société qui désireraient les consulter. Des remercîments sont votés à MM. les membres du Bureau et à MM. les Inspecteurs des Sections. M. Kessiakoff, auteur de cette proposition, demande l'insertion du vote au procès-verbal.

La séance est levée à 11 heures et demie.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Pour le Comité Central :

Le Vice-Président,
(Signé) R. P. A. CHILIER, *des Augustins de l'Assomption.*
Le Trésorier,
(Signé) J. B. CROZIER.
Le Secrétaire,
(Signé) A. LANGLAIS.

No. 407.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 90. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Bucharest, July 8, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch addressed by M. Boerescu to Count Hoyos here, giving his Excellency the views of the Roumanian Government on the subject of the solution of the Arab-Tabia question through the friendly interposition of the Austrian Cabinet.

The Vienna papers supposed to be connected with the Ministerial offices have asserted that this Government was most thankful for the arrangement thus obtained for Roumania, but from the tenour of the accompanying document, given me privately and in the strictest confidence, it appears that the language of the Foreign Minister was extremely guarded, and that his thanks were limited to the wishes and proceedings of the Imperial Cabinet, and not to the actual result.

As in the question of the transfer of the Bessarabian districts to Russia two years ago the present Roumanian Prime Minister preferred submitting to their loss, however painful, as the result of a decision of an European Areopagus, rather than seeking to obtain more favourable terms by a separate understanding with Russia, so again on the present occasion he is glad to see the frontier question settled by an agreement amongst all the Powers, although he may feel disappointed that the original decision of the Boundary Commissioners has not been maintained in its integrity, and though his critics reproach him that he might have secured greater advantages by seeking to make an agreement with Russia as to the possession of the Dobrudscha by his country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 407.

M. Boeresco to Count Hoyos.

M. le Comte, *Bucharest, le* $\frac{12}{24}$ *Juin*, 1880.

LA communication que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser, en date du 17 de ce mois, sur la combinaison proposée aux Puissances par le Cabinet de Vienne pour résoudre définitivement la question de la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Dobroudja, constitue pour nous une nouvelle preuve de l'amitié dont le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Apostolique est animé à notre égard.

Je me fais un devoir de vous en exprimer ici les remercîments et les sentiments de gratitude du Cabinet Princier.

Votre Gouvernement était, en effet, mieux que tout autre, en position d'apprécier les motifs si sérieux sur lesquels se fondait notre légitime impatience de voir fixer sans retard et d'une manière définitive le tracé de cette frontière. Aussi ne pouvons nous que savoir gré au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale Apostolique d'avoir pris l'initiative d'une mesure qui nous intéresse à tant de titres, et qui contribuera à maintenir la bonne entente et l'harmonie entre l'Etat Roumain et la Principauté limitrophe de Bulgarie.

Je n'ai pas manqué de déférer immédiatement à l'examen d'hommes spéciaux le croquis que vous avez bien voulu me remettre. Nous y avons constaté, avec satisfaction et reconnaissance, que le point d'Arab-Tabia nous était réservé. Mais en même temps il y est indiqué, comme votre Excellence a bien voulu d'ailleurs m'en prévenir elle-même, que le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal propose aux Cabinets, pour la région voisine de Silistrie, une modification au tracé primitivement fixé par la Commission Européenne de Délimitation. En outre, nous avons cru remarquer que la proposition actuelle modifie aussi le tracé adopté par la Commission Technique. En effet, une portion de terrain de la banlieue de Silistrie est encore ajoutée à celle qui avait été déterminée par cette seconde Commission.

Il ne nous appartient pas, M. le Comte, d'apprécier et de juger ici la nature de cette combinaison, et le caractère de la faveur concédée à la Bulgarie. Ce n'est pas à nous la proposition est adressée; ce n'est pas notre adhésion qu'on demande avant sa mise à exécution. Vous avez seulement bien voulu me donner connaissance de la démarche de votre Gouvernement auprès des Cabinets, et vous m'informez en même temps que si les Puissances s'accordent à en approuver les dispositions, l'Acte de Délimitation, revêtu de la sanction des Cabinets, nous sera officiellement communiqué, afin qu'il soit appliqué sur le terrain.

En d'autres termes, si j'ai bien saisi la pensée de votre Gouvernement, cette proposition est considérée comme la continuation, comme le développement de l'Article XLVI du Traité de Berlin, et comme telle, on entend la discuter et la résoudre entre les Puissances Signataires de ce Traité.

Notre rôle serait dès lors effacé.

Toutefois nous sommes partie éminemment intéressée dans le débat, et à ce titre il nous est bien permis d'attirer l'attention de votre Excellence sur l'importance que présente le nouveau tracé proposé par votre Gouvernement, à l'égard du pont ou de la communication à établir entre les deux rives du Danube, en face de Silistrie.

Selon ce tracé, le pont et même une simple communication deviennent impraticables. Dès la moindre crue des eaux du Danube, tout le terrain compris entre le point terminus de la frontière et le point vis-à-vis des Iles Hopo est tellement inondé que le passage est entièrement coupé, et de fait la frontière serait reculée de plusieurs kilomètres.

Pour peu que l'inondation monte encore, la submersion peut s'étendre jusqu'à un grand lac permanent située dans le voisinage, et augmente d'autant l'impossibilité des communications entre les deux rives.

Ce sont précisément ces difficultés matérielles du terrain qui avaient déterminé la première Commission Internationale à fixer le tracé qu'elle avait indiqué.

De ces diverses considérations il résulte, M. le Comte, que le Gouvernement Roumain, qui s'est, sous tous les Rapports, conformé aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin, ne peut, en ce qui concerne les clauses non encore exécutées, que se maintenir dans le domaine du droit strict. Or, ce droit est assez clairement spécifié par l'Article XLVI, à l'esprit et à la lettre duquel nous ne pouvons qu'obéir.

C'est dans ce but, c'est en nous associant avec déférence aux intentions des Puissances Signataires du Traité, que nous avons à plusieurs reprises signalé aux

Cabinets l'urgent nécessité de résoudre à titre définitif, et le plus tôt que faire se pourrait, la question de la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Dobroudja.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) B. BOERESCO.

No. 408.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 93. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, July 9*, 1880.

WITH reference to what I had the honour to report on the 31st May on the subject of Bulgaria, I can only repeat that all the intelligence reaching Bucharest from different sources, and from various districts in that Principality, continues to be very disquieting.

The activity displayed there with regard to armaments, and the increasing number of Russian officers and non-commissioned officers, as well as the constant importation of rifles and ammunition, all point to some intended military action.

It is not to be presumed, however, that any disturbance of the Berlin stipulations will be attempted by Bulgaria, unless it be in connection with some fresh complications which may arise in other parts of the Balcanic Peninsula.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 409.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 94.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, July 9*, 1880.

IN connection with the subject reported in my preceding despatch of this day's date, I may mention that the British Vice-Consul at Craiova has just informed me that the demolition of the fortifications at Widdin, which had been proceeding slowly, had been suddenly interrupted, quite lately, under orders received from Sophia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 410.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 47.)

My Lord, *Buyukderé, July 9*, 1880.

AT the fourth meeting of the Commission, held on the 30th June, the discussion of the 19th Article of the new Projet de Loi was, upon my motion, put off till the 4th chapter, dealing with the Budget, was reached. I have now the honour to submit to your Lordship the following considerations in regard to that Article, and the subjects thereby raised.

The Article itself runs as follows:—

"A l'exception des droits de Douane, de la taxe sur les sels, et des impôts sur les tabacs, le dixième des autres revenus généraux de chaque vilayet, après prélèvement des frais de toutes les branches de l'Administration, sera abandonné à ce vilayet pour la construction et la réparation des routes, ponts, et échelles, le creusement des canaux, le dessèchement des marais, et, en général, pour les travaux d'utilité publique et la propagation de l'instruction. Le reste sera affecté au budget de la guerre et aux autres dépenses générales de l'Administration Centrale. Cependant les revenus des Vakoufs n'étant pas compris dans les revenus généraux des vilayets, seront administrés conformément aux dispositions indiquées dans le Titre, qui traite des attributions des Conseils des diverses communautés."

Two questions arise on this Article:—

1. What taxes should be reserved to the Porte?
2. Upon what principle should a provincial revenue be provided?

The proceeds of the Customs and of the Postal and Telegraphic Services are revenues essentially Imperial in their character. Their omission has perhaps been accidental. They should in any case be reserved to the Porte. The monopolies of salt and tobacco have also been generally regarded as coming within the same category. They have always been centrally administered, and are reserved to the Empire in the Cretan Charter. The three other "indirect taxes" have also been hitherto centrally administered, viz., "spiritueux, fish, and stamps." These also may be said to belong legitimately to the Empire. To these may be added the tithe of silk, generally regarded as a sort of royalty, and frequently though incorrectly described as one of the indirect taxes. The posts, telegraphs, and customs, and the six so-called indirect taxes, viz., tobacco, salt, spiritueux, fish, stamps and silks, would therefore be the Imperial reservations, instead of the tobacco and salt alone. A further advantage of this plan would be that all interference with the contract between the Porte and the bankers, dated the 25th November, 1879, by which the six indirect taxes were hypothecated to the latter, and were in practice to be collected by them, will be avoided. It is true that the Commission is in no manner called upon to defend the interests of the bankers, more especially as the above-mentioned contract has been denounced by more than one of the Powers as a fraud upon the prior rights of the bondholders under the older loans; but the indirect result of this contract has been the introduction of a new and improved system of collection, under the auspices of Mr. Lang, which, while increasing the revenue, spares the population much of the oppression and extortion customary in Turkey, and would afford a possible groundwork of future financial reform, if extended to the collection of the Customs.

Were Article XIX to be passed in its present shape, viz., with a reservation to the Empire of only two of the indirect taxes, in other words, of the salt and tobacco, it is clear that the above contract, and the system of collection depending upon it, would, to say the least, be endangered, a result which would be viewed with satisfaction precisely by those persons whose good opinion the Commission is least anxious to secure.

Passing from this question, it remains to be considered what should be the basis of the distribution of the provincial revenues between the Imperial and the provincial Governments. By the term "provincial revenues" are meant tithes, verghi, military exemption, sheep tax, swine tax, tapou, contracts, judicial receipts, droits divers, emlak, forests, and miscellaneous. Speaking generally, they are the direct taxes, as defined in the fourth sitting of the Constantinople Conference (December 14, 1876), when it rejected the classification presented to it, and to be found in the Annexe to that sitting, under which the tithe and the sheep tax were treated as indirect taxes.

A preliminary question, however, here arises: What will be the effect of any possible scheme for forming a provincial revenue upon the fulfilment of the various obligations of the Turkish Government?

Considering the actual condition of the country and its finances, it may be doubted whether any foreign Government would be justified in departing from its usual attitude of impartiality in such matters, in order to ask the Porte to saddle the provinces with a charge levied to pay either interest or sinking fund on the old loan, from the expenditure of which the provinces would probably be inclined to dispute their having received any appreciable or lasting benefit, and a large portion of which they would certainly assert had been expended in mere corruption at Constantinople. An interference in these matters would in all probability by its unpopularity hasten the disintegration of the Empire. But, putting aside these considerations for the present, it must be recollected that the principal evils from which for many years the Ottoman Empire has suffered has been the constant drain of treasure from the provinces into the Imperial Treasury. The principal object of reform must, therefore, be to stop this drain. The interests of the bondholders being secured by the sums in the Imperial Treasury, it is clear that any plan which diminishes the sums paid into that Treasury must *pro tanto* affect the security of the bondholders, and consequently any scheme, which in reality attains the object mentioned above, must furnish the Porte to some extent with an excuse for repudiating its debt, if it desires so to act. It may, however, be fairly argued that, even if the Porte never pays another farthing of either interest or sinking fund, it is undesirable that its adversaries should be furnished with a weapon such as the repudiation of obligations it has contracted will afford. Granting this, it may nevertheless be doubted whether the Ottoman Government has not already brought that weapon into play against itself. Public opinion considers that the Ottoman Government has repudiated its debt, and does not draw any nice distinctions between practical and formal repudiation.

Nevertheless, in settling the proportions which the Imperial are to bear to the provincial revenues, it may be desirable, as observed by the Earl of Derby in his instructions to the Marquis of Salisbury, dated the 20th November, 1876, and bearing in

mind the 18th Protocol of the Treaty of Berlin, not to lose sight of the above considerations altogether; while, with a view to the maintenance of the Ottoman Empire, it is absolutely necessary that, so far as it is possible to make a calculation in a country where official statistics can hardly be said to exist, and all accurate information is most difficult to obtain, some estimate should be made of what sums would be left to the Imperial Government under any proposed arrangement, in order to enable an opinion to be formed as to whether the sums so left would be sufficient or not for the legitimate needs of the Imperial Exchequer.

The Commissioners are directed to follow the analogy of the Cretan Charter (1868-1875). In Crete the whole revenue of the island except that arising from the customs, and the salt and tobacco monopolies, is paid into the provincial treasury and controlled by the Provincial Assembly. It is true that in practice the total amount of this revenue is considerably diminished owing to the verghi, which in one shape or another exists everywhere else in European Turkey, having never been levied in Crete, and from several other taxes, *e.g.*, the sheep tax, being abnormally low. The existence, however, of the above exemption from verghi, which is maintained by the Treaty of Berlin, is a special question, in no manner affecting the correctness of the general proposition that the direct revenue of the island is controlled by the Provincial Assembly.

The costs of the local administration of the island are a first charge on the provincial revenue, and any surplus remaining is divided into fixed equal charges of 50 per cent. to the island and 50 per cent. to the Imperial Treasury. The costs of the local administration are defined to include everything except the army, and by implication the navy. On the other hand, if the direct revenue of the island is insufficient to meet the expenditure, one-half of the customs is paid as a grant in aid into the provincial treasury. The Cretan financial system may, in fact, be said to be in harmony with the views put forward in the Andrassy Note, when the Porte was urged to pass "une loi qui garantirait que les Contributions Directes de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine soit employé dans l'intérêt de la province même, sous le contrôle des organes constitués dans le sens du Firman du 12 Décembre."

Article 19 is widely different in many respects from this. It says nothing about a provincial treasury, and it gives no definition of the expression "toutes les branches de l'Administration Locale." These, consequently, as well as the amount to be expended under each head, are left entirely, in the first instance, to the decision of the Governor-General, who prepares the Budget and submits it to the Assembly. A dangerous latitude is thereby left to him. An estimate prepared, for example, by an Ahmed Eyoub, would probably differ widely from one prepared by a Réouf or a Midhat; and a Governor-General anxious to curry favour with the Palace would be under a constant temptation to starve the services in order to increase the amount payable to the Empire as its share (90 per cent.) of the surplus direct revenue. In the old Province of Adrianople the local expenditure in 1874-75 was only £T. 160,000 out of a total direct revenue of £T. 1,500,000, as appears from some statistical Tables shown to me by the Ottoman Bank. Similarly in the Province of Salonica the revenue was £T. 760,000 in that year, and the local expenditure only £T. 100,000. But the proper cost of the local administration of the Province of Adrianople, even in its present narrow limits, is put down by the Governor-General at £T. 300,000, as will be noticed further on.

So far the Article is objectionable from a provincial point of view, though having the advantage of furnishing to a certain extent a self-acting machinery for the ascertainment of provincial needs. It is also true that the objections given above might be met by defining the term "frais d'Administration Locale," and by giving to private members of the Assembly the power to propose, and to the Assembly on their motion to adopt, an increase of the sums proposed by the Government on the estimates, and the opening of new chapters of expenditure. Such a power, I am informed by my colleagues, is possessed by the members of the French Assembly and the German Parliament. It exists in Crete. It is not possessed by the members of the English House of Commons, the rules of which throw the responsibility of proposing expenditure upon the Minister of the Crown. If, however, as above suggested, a definition is attempted of the term "frais de l'Administration Locale," it should probably proceed, as in Crete, by way of exclusion, and not of inclusion. It would be almost impossible for a body of Commissioners, chiefly foreigners, to make a correct enumeration of the various heads of local expenditure in a country, with the details of the local business of which they can hardly claim to be very intimately acquainted.

It remains to be considered whether Article 19 may not be objectionable from an Imperial point of view. After deducting the costs of the local expenditure, the surplus remaining is to be divided into portions of 10 per cent. to the province and 90 per cent. to the Porte. In Crete the proportions are 50 per cent. to each. "This condition," says

Mr. Sandwith, Her Majesty's Consul in the island, "is likely to become a subject of future dispute between the Porte and its subjects, because the latter think that, in yielding the indirect taxes to the Central Government, they have yielded quite enough, and they may in consequence be expected to resort to every subterfuge to avoid further payment." It is evident how much the temptation to follow a vexatious course will be increased when the province gets only 10 per cent. of the surplus instead of 50 per cent., while the Empire gets 90 per cent. instead of only one-half.

The Assembly would be enabled to show its hostility in two ways: First, by unduly increasing the local expenditure; and here the power proposed to be conferred on private members of increasing the votes might become practically dangerous; and secondly, by using its legislative power in regard to the provincial taxes so as to cut down the rate of those taxes to a point just sufficient to cover the expenses of the local administration and no more. This objection is a very serious one, and it is in any case desirable to place on record the fact, that the sole responsibility for the Article being drawn on the present lines must rest on the shoulders of the Ottoman Commissioners and Government, whose business it is to protect the interests of the Empire they represent, the Commissioners of the other Powers on the other hand being invited to ascertain that the Projet de Loi meets the necessities of the provinces.

A plan which would avoid the above-mentioned objection would be to recast the Article entirely in regard to the proceeds of the taxes not reserved to the Empire, and following the principle of the "Ausgleich" between Hungary and Croatia, and of the arrangement proposed by the Constantinople Conference for Turkey and Bulgaria, to divide the whole proceeds of these taxes into two portions, one of which should go to the Empire, and the other remain to the province. The province would then have an adequate interest in keeping up the revenue. The Imperial share would be a first charge upon the revenue. It remains to be decided what would be a legitimate division.

The figure given in Réouf Pasha's Budget as representing the sum necessary to cover the legitimate costs of the local administration of the Province of Adrianople is £ T. 300,000.

	Pts.
Interior	6,229,384
Finances	2,778,704
Sheri (religious tribunals)	879,000
Public Instruction	177,796
Public Works	600,000
Justice	3,113,840
Police and Gendarmerie	15,379,497
	29,158,221

Or, £ T. 291,582.

The estimated revenue of the Province of Adrianople in 1875-6, the last year before the war, was £ T. 1,500,000 (see Mr. Harrison's Report, and the document submitted to the Constantinople Conference, "Turkey, No. 2," 1877, p. 107).

The direct revenue of the Province of Eastern Roumelia was estimated by the European Commission, when sitting at Philippopoli, at £ T. 800,000. Deducting this sum from the £ T. 1,500,000, it would appear that the revenue of the present Province of Adrianople may be taken at £ T. 700,000. Consequently, the local expenditure contemplated by Réouf Pasha would, reducing the whole amount to £ T. 600,000 in the present year, owing to temporary distress, amount to 50 per cent. of the revenue. Réouf Pasha's estimate of the revenue for this year is, it may be mentioned, only £ T. 425,126; but there are sufficient reasons for thinking this estimate to be not only incorrect as to the present year, but altogether misleading as an average.

The Constantinople Conference, with the consent of the English Cabinet, proposed, in regard to Bulgaria, to give 30 per cent. to the Sultan and 70 per cent. to the province. This arrangement, it was expressly stated by the Earl of Derby, in no manner contemplated the erection of Bulgaria into a tributary State ("Turkey No. 2," 1877, p. 2). The province, however, had to provide the militia and internal military defence, items which would, in all probability, account for at least 20 per cent.

In Cyprus, at the time of the Convention of 1878, the total revenue was estimated at £ T. 170,000. Deducting the revenue proposed to be reserved, £ T. 120,000 would remain as the provincial revenue. The local expenditure was estimated at £ T. 45,000, or 37 per cent.; but under the reformed administration, it has been found greatly to exceed that amount, and, including £ T. 26,000, the cost of the pioneer force, it now probably amounts to 50 per cent. of the total revenue of the island, including the Customs and other reserved

taxes, with, however, the exception of the salt revenue, which has disappeared since the loss of the Constantinople market.

In the arrangement between Hungary and Croatia, the costs of the local administration of the latter are taken at 45 per cent. of the gross revenue.

The conclusion, therefore, which is pointed at by these figures, is that 50 per cent. of the direct revenues of the provinces should be assigned as a fixed first charge to the Porte, and the remainder be left to the provincial treasury. Were this plan adopted throughout the Empire, the Imperial Treasury would be left with a sum of £ T. 4,625,000, besides the reserved taxes, to meet its expenditure, making in all £ T. 9,615,000, as shown in the following statement, based upon the figures of the Commission which inquired into the condition of the finances of the Porte, and to be found in Mr. Harrison's Report:—

	£ T.
50 per cent. of revenues provincially administered	4,625,000
Customs	1,500,000
Indirect revenues	2,000,000
Posts, Telegraphs, Mines, &c.	500,000
Tribute of Egypt, Samos, Mount Athos; and net revenue of Cyprus	890,000
	9,615,000

These figures, however, it must be expressly stated, are very hypothetical, as the circumstances of the Empire have not improved since the date of the above Report, nor does it in the least follow that such a plan as that indicated above could with advantage be applied to the Asiatic provinces, or even to all the provinces of Europe, *e.g.*, to those comprising the Albanian population, which differs so considerably from the other provinces of the Empire. But apart from these considerations, there are objections to the above plan. Practical difficulties would arise in the way of ascertaining within the year what the exact gross revenue was, and consequently how much the 50 per cent. due to the Sultan would represent. The Imperial Treasury, therefore, in order to meet its constantly recurring necessities, would probably have to commute its share into a lump sum, to be paid in monthly instalments, the amount of which would be ascertained quinquennially, upon an average of the returns of the preceding year. But the difficulties would probably not end there. If the provincial revenues are paid into a provincial treasury, under the control of the Governor-General and his officers, which appears to be the proposal of the new Projet de Loi, the Imperial Treasury, under the above plan, would find the greatest difficulty in getting accounts submitted to it, showing the share to which it was legitimately entitled. Although the Governor-General represents the Sultan, he might be greatly tempted to reduce the amounts owing to his Sovereign, in order to gain local popularity. On the other hand, the converse objection would be sure to arise if the treasury and the collection of the taxes were to be left under central control. It may be mentioned, in connection with this subject, that the Hungarian Parliament has always refused the Croatian Diet the power of collecting the taxes of the country.

Some plan, then, has to be looked for under which, on the one hand, the Empire may be sure of obtaining the revenue legitimately accruing to it, and, on the other hand, the province may not be at the mercy of the personal whims of the Governor-General.

The following heads of a scheme, in which something is borrowed from both of the plans already discussed, are here given, as appearing to meet the above requirements:—

1. The whole of the direct provincial revenue to be paid into the branch of the Ottoman Bank at the capital of each province.

2. The costs of the local administration to be fixed at a lump sum per annum, upon a liberal estimate of the provincial necessities.

3. The Bank to keep a separate account (A) for the costs of the local administration; and the Governor-General to draw upon it to an amount per annum not exceeding the lump sum mentioned above. These drafts to be a first charge on the provincial revenues.

4. The Bank to keep a second account (B) to which should be transferred 10 per cent. of the balance remaining after the provincial drafts had been cashed, or whatever other per-centage might be determined. The Governor-General to draw upon this account also.

5. The Bank to keep a third account (C) to which should be transferred 90 per cent. of the balance, or whatever other percentage might be determined.

The amounts paid into this account to be remitted to the Imperial Treasury at Constantinople, according to the discretion of the Imperial Minister of Finance.

6. If the Governor-General did not draw in any one year to the full amount of the

lump sum, the difference to remain to the credit of the province for the ensuing year, and the same condition to hold good in regard to account (B).

7. The above arrangement to be revised quinquenially.

The Governor-General might be directed to draw so much per month only, in order that the Imperial Treasury might not have to wait for the payments due to it till the end of the year. For example, if on the 1st July the provincial drafts still due were £T. 150,000, and the amount in the Bank were £T. 300,000, the Bank would at once make a remittance to Constantinople; or, supposing the provincial revenue to come in at the rate of £T. 50,000 a-month, and the Governor-General to be only able to draw at the rate of £T. 25,000, the Porte would be able to receive £T. 22,500 a-month.

It is believed that, under the arrangement proposed above, £T. 300,000 would not be an unfair estimate of the lump sum to be accorded to Adrianople, and £T. 380,000 as the sum to be accorded to the Province of Salonica. In other words, about 50 per cent. of the present direct revenue of those two provinces would be accorded to them as a fixed charge, but subject to revision by consent at a future date. It is exceedingly important that this sum should be fixed high enough at starting, as the province will undoubtedly have to undertake some heavy expenditure, which ought not to be shirked. The above estimate is based upon the calculations of expenditure prepared by Réouf Pasha for the Province of Adrianople already mentioned, which it is believed afford a fair idea of what the legitimate expenditure of a reforming Governor-General would be. It is also believed that the share of the surplus accorded to the province might be increased from 10 to 15 per cent., as a set-off to the increase of the Imperial reservations.

Several other bases of arrangement besides those just considered have also been proposed, *e.g.*, that the proceeds of a single tax, such as the tithe, should be reserved to the provinces. The objection to this plan is that in a bad year the province would be entirely ruined. The same objection applies to the suggestion, that everything might be easily settled by merely giving the Imperial Government a fixed annual sum. Such an arrangement would be unfair to the province in a bad year and to the Porte in a good one.

These considerations, together with those already set out, have led me to the conclusion that the scheme detailed above is, on the whole, less open to objection than any other which has been put forward; and I therefore propose to bring it before the Commission when the Fourth Chapter of the Projet de Loi is reached. At the same time, I fully realize how uncertain in many respects the basis of my calculations has unavoidably been, owing to the absence of recent and accurate information as to the revenues and expenditure of the provinces of the Empire. I regret to have to add that the Turkish Commissioners have not shown the smallest anxiety to assist their colleagues in this respect. They have frequently been asked to furnish the Commission with whatever information can be obtained by them in time for its consideration before the financial Articles of the Projet come under discussion; but, though professing their readiness to do so, they have not as yet taken any steps in the matter. But, notwithstanding these difficulties, I nevertheless believe that my proposals will be sufficient to meet the necessities of the provinces, and will not impair the integrity of the Empire. The former will secure for their undivided use a sum sufficient to cover all the costs of the local administration. The latter will obtain at starting a sum equal to that it would have received under the proposed division of the revenue into equal proportions of 50 per cent., and will ultimately be the principal gainer from the increased revenues which it is hoped an improved administration will produce. Finally, as regards the interests intended to be protected by the 18th Protocol of the Treaty of Berlin, I would submit to your Lordship that, so far as they can be taken into account, they are likely to gain more by the prosperity which will naturally follow the adoption of Reforms than they will lose by the diversion from the Imperial Treasury and Palace of the sums hitherto wrung with difficulty from impoverished provinces and a suffering population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 411.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 48.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, July 11, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the Mazbata of the Local Commission of Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 411.

Procès-verbal des Conférences de la Commission instituée de la part du Vilayet pour discuter le Projet de Loi pour les Provinces de la Turquie d'Europe en général et aussi spécialement les Articles qui concernent les besoins locaux de la Province.

(Traduction.)

Membres de la Commission:

1. Le Defterdar du Vilayet, Rifat Bey.
2. Le Mustéchar du Vilayet, Constantinidi Pacha.
3. Mihalaki Effendi.
4. Le Métropolitain.
5. Ibrahim Bey.
6. Agoiah Effendi.
7. Salih Bey.
8. Hamdi Bey.
9. Abdi Effendi.
10. Atanas.
11. Samuel Metalon Effendi.
12. Anis Effendi.
13. Petritchli Husni Effendi.
14. Istefan Tali Effendi.
15. Vassilaki Papass Oghlou Effendi.
16. Behor Salthyl Effendi.
17. Arif Bey, Président de la Municipalité.
18. Ali Effendi.
19. Ichtro Ivanadi Effendi.
20. Aristarki Eksalindi Effendi.

Première Séance.

Par des votes donnés en secret furent élus avec majorité des voix:—

Ibrahim Bey, Président.
Arif Bey, Vice-Président.
Anis Effendi et Abdi Effendi, } Secrétaires.

Mode de Discussion.

ON a décidé à l'unanimité, que les Articles qui seront accepté sans changement et sans discussion seront notés dans ce procès-verbal, seulement avec leur numéro courant. Dans le cas qu'ils surgira une opposition ou discussion on notera d'abord dans une pièce spéciale, la partition des voix, telle qu'elle s'est produite au vote, puis, tant qu'il sera possible, les raisons et arguments développés par les membres, et les noms des membres dissidents qui restent dans la minorité; enfin, tout cela sera porté dans le procès-verbal, qui sera lu, approuvé, et signé au commencement de la prochaine séance.

Lieu et Temps des Séances.

Il fut également décidé que la Commission se réunira tous les Dimanches et Vendredis quelques minutes avant 8 heures; que la séance sera ouverte précisément à 8 heures;

que l'on se réunira dans la salle du Conseil du vilayet; que tous les membres se trouveront régulièrement à leur place, et que dans le cas d'empêchement ils donneront avis d'avance au Président.

Sous la présidence de Réouf Pacha et en présence de tous les membres, la discussion du Projet est commencé le $\frac{3}{15}$ Décembre, 1878.

Articles 1, 2, 3, et 4, après lecture, sont acceptés sans discussion.

A la lecture de l'Article 5, Mgr. le Métropolitain, Mihalaki Effendi, et Arif Bey proposent de changer les mots "ne peut être pris des mains du Juge," en "ne peut être pris des mains du Tribunal," parce que les mots proposés par le Projet pourraient causer une accumulation des procès près de certains Juges et pourraient porter préjudice à une prompte et juste solution de leur part.

Art. 6 fut accepté sans discussion.

Art. 7. On décida à l'unanimité d'ajouter après les mots "dans les circonstances signifiées dans la loi," les mots "d'après la manière prescrite par la loi," et cela seulement pour expliquer la première phrase.

Art. 8. Y fut décidé à l'unanimité d'ajouter après les mots "sécurité publique," les mots "et religieuse," et cela aussi pour une meilleure explication.

Arts. 9, 10, 11 furent acceptés sans discussion.

Art. 12. Arif Bey et Athanase Effendi proposent d'ajouter un alinéa à l'effet que: personne ne puisse changer de domicile avant d'avoir terminé tous ces procès civils et pénaux de son premier domicile, afin de protéger les droits contre toute atteinte; mais l'Article a été accepté à la majorité dans ses termes originaux, et la proposition d'Arif Bey et Athanas Effendi rejetée.

Les Articles 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, et 18 furent acceptés sans discussion.

Art. 19. A la lecture de cet Article le Defterdar Bey, le Mustéchar Pacha, Muhalaki Effendi, Ibrahim Bey, Aguiah Bey, Hamdi Bey, Samuel Effendi, et Abdi Effendi, bien qu'ils acceptnient cet Article, déclarèrent qu'il serait fort à désirer que, vu que l'instruction publique appartient aux besoins les plus pressants du vilayet, et vu que des travaux publics et des progrès dans l'instruction sont les sources principales d'une augmentation des revenus du vilayet, on abandonne un-dixième des revenus du vilayet (sans déduire les dépenses pour les besoins locaux—un dixième des revenus bruts) au vilayet. Cette déclaration fut acceptée à la majorité.

Deuxième Séance.

Le $\frac{7}{19}$ Décembre, 1878, sous la présidence du Premier Président et en présence de tous les membres excepté le Métropolitain:—

La Commission est prévenu de la démission du Defterdar, et de la nomination de Dramali Aguiah Bey à sa place.

Art. 20. Au lieu des mots "sera permis" on accepte les mots "peuvent être employé, et les indigènes seront toujours préférés," avec tous les votes contre celle du Mustéchar Pacha, qui déclare accepter l'Article en question sans changement.

Art. 21. Après lecture de cet Article, Stéphan Effendi présenta une lettre de Mgr. le Métropolitain dans laquelle il déclare qu'une indisposition a été la cause de son absence, et qui contient aussi les idées et le vote du Métropolitain sur Article 21. Dans cette lettre il est dit: "Bien que les Jugements des Tribunaux seront rendu dans la langue officielle de l'Empire, qui est le Turc, je propose d'employer aussi dans les bureaux civils judiciaires, et autres, comme deuxième langue, le Grec, de délivrer les Jugements dans cette langue, si les deux parties en question le demandent, de publier toutes les lois, régulations, avis officiels, &c., dans les deux langues; de faire délivrer de la part du Gouvernement des traductions officielles des Actes nommés dans toute autre langue, employée par une partie considérable des habitants du vilayet; de donner la préférence aux Juges qui sont capables de l'une ou de l'autre des langues employées dans le pays; et que l'on ne nommera pour Juges d'Instruction que des personnes qui seront capables des langues parlées par les habitants du vilayet." Telles sont les propositions de Mgr. le Métropolitain sur ce paragraphe. Dans la discussion qui suivit Stephan Effendi et Vassilaki Effendi, Athanas Effendi et Christaki Effendi étaient de l'avis du Métropolitain; Michalaki Effendi, Abdi Bey, et Salih Bey proposèrent d'accepter l'Article dans sa forme originale, et d'ajouter seulement que le Grec étant généralement parlé dans le pays, pourrait être employé en second lieu. Le Mustéchar Pacha déclare d'accepter l'Article sans changement bien que le Grec soit généralement parlé dans le Vilayet de Salonique, et la majorité accepte l'Article sans changement, déclarant qu'il n'y a pas de nécessité de rien ajouter à cet Article.

Arts. 22, 23, et 24 furent, après lecture, acceptés sans discussion.

Art. 25. Au premier alinéa de cet Article, Hamdi Bey, Stéphan Effendi, Husni Bey,

Aguiah Effendi, Aguiah Bey, et Michalaki Effendi proposent d'ajouter que le Vali, dans le cas que sa bonne administration serait confirmée de la part des habitants, soit de nouveau nommé à son poste et cela pour une période de cinq ans; cette proposition est rejetée par la majorité, qui accepte le premier alinéa sans changement. Au deuxième alinéa il est décidé de changer les mots, "il lui est permis d'émettre et de publier des instructions* et avis officiels," en les mots, "d'émettre des instructions et des avis officiels," avec toutes les voix contre celles de Hamdi Bey, Stéphan Effendi, du Mustéchar Pacha, et d'Arif Bey.

Art. 26. La Majorité décide de dire dans cet Article: "il est responsable à l'Empire et à la loi," tandis que le Mustéchar Pacha et Arif Bey acceptent cet Article dans sa forme originale sans ces changements.

Art. 27 est accepté par la majorité sans changement, contre les voix de Stephan et Vassilaki Effendi, qui veulent que l'on donne ici référence à l'Article 47, où on parle de Mustéchars qui représenteront le Vali dans son absence.

Troisième Séance.

Le $\frac{9}{21}$ Décembre, 1878, sous la présidence du Premier Président, en présence de tous les membres excepté le Métropolitain et Ali Effendi, qui sont empêchés par indisposition:—

Art. 28. Husni Bey est d'avis que le Vali ne peut pas sans le consentement de l'Assemblée Provinciale déclarer l'état de siège; Abdi Effendi déclare également que dans le cas où l'état de siège se montrerait indispensable le Vali sera obligé d'avoir recours à l'Assemblée et de communiquer à l'Assemblée les raisons et motifs pour sa proposition concernant l'état de siège; l'Assemblée discutera la proposition du Vali; dans le cas d'unanimité dans l'Assemblée, le vote de l'Assemblée sera exécuté; dans le cas de partition de votes on dressera un procès-verbal contenant les votes motivés des membres de l'Assemblée, et on le présentera au Vali, qui agira d'après le vote auquel il se joint. Le Mustéchar Pacha, Arif Bey, et Salih Bey, déclarent accepter l'Article sans changement et cela en considération que le Vali est responsable à l'Empire et qu'en conséquence il doit être aussi libre pour l'exécution des mesures pour lesquelles lui seul est responsable. La majorité accepte cet Article comme il a été proposé, et ajoute seulement que le Vali dans le cas que la publication d'un Décret relatif à l'état de siège se montrerait nécessaire, communiquera les raisons pour cela à l'Assemblée, qui aura seulement une voix consultative; de manière que le Vali proposera à l'Assemblée de consentir à sa proposition; si l'Assemblée consent, il exécutera sa proposition sans délai; sinon, il portera la décision motivée de l'Assemblée à la connaissance de la Sublime Porte avant de l'exécuter. La majorité décide aussi de changer les mots "à une loi ou régulation, ou à un Décret," pour les mots, "dans le cas que les habitants résistent aux dispositions des lois," contre les voix du Mustéchar Pacha, Ibrahim et Arif Beys, qui veulent conserver l'Article sans changement.

Art. 29. La majorité décide de mettre au lieu des mots "à eux" les mots "un vilayet," contre les voix du Mustéchar Pacha, d'Ibrahim et de Hamdi Beys, qui veulent accepter l'Article dans sa façon originaire.

Art. 30. La majorité veut que les officiers de la police soient nommés par le vilayet, excepté le Colonel-Commandant, tandis que le Mustéchar Pacha, Ivanidi Effendi, Bochor Effendi, et Mihalaki Effendi acceptent l'Article sans changement.

Arts. 31 et 32 sont acceptés sans discussion.

Art. 33. La majorité veut que les Statuts de Sociétés Anonymes soient discutés par les Conseils du Vilayet, et approuvés par l'Assemblée, et qu'après cela le Vali du Vilayet donnera la permission nécessaire en communication avec le Ministère dont la Société relève, contre la voix du Mustéchar Pacha, qui croit que le vote du Conseil sera suffisant dans cette affaire, et contre celle d'Arif Bey, qui accepte l'Article sans changement quelconque

Quatrième Séance.

Le $\frac{14}{26}$ Décembre, 1878, sous la présidence du Premier Président, en présence de tous les membres, excepté Mgr. le Métropolitan, Stéphan et Dramali Aguiah Effendis, qui sont empêchés par raison d'indisposition:—

On donne lecture d'une lettre de Mihaluki Effendi, dans laquelle il donne sa démission pour des raisons privées; le vilayet annonce que l'on procédera immédiatement à la

* Le texte signifie plutôt "instructions militaires."

nomination d'un autre membre à sa place. Après cela on déclare de tenir aussi des séances tous les Mardis.

Art. 34 est lu. Le Mustéchar Pacha, Arif Bey, Abdi, Bochor, et Samuel Effendis, l'acceptent sans changement. La majorité décide de changer les mots: "Les ordres provenant de la capitale," en mots "Les ordres légitimes provenant de la capitale," et d'ajouter après les mots "s'il sera nécessaire de l'éloigner de son poste s'il agira de cette manière," les mots "après confirmation nécessaire donnée par le Conseil Supérieur." Aguiah et Hamdi Beys et Abdi Effendi sont d'avis que le Vali sera obligé de donner préalablement avis au Tribunal compétent. Salih Bey accepte l'Article sans changement.

Arts. 35, 36 et 37 sont acceptés sans discussion.

Art. 38. Il fut décidé à l'unanimité des voix que les revirements qui seraient nécessaires entre les différents postes qui sont énumérés dans cet Article, se feront par décision de l'Assemblée, et que l'on en préviendra le Ministère de l'Intérieur seulement pour que ce revirement y soit dûment enregistré.

Arts. 39, 40, 41 et 42 sont acceptés sans changement et sans discussion.

Art. 43. La majorité décide que pour la solution des questions qui sont mentionnées dans cet Article, un procès-verbal des séances communes de l'Assemblée, et du Consil Supérieur du Vilayet, sera dressé et que la décision sur les affaires susmentionnées sera prise en séance commune de ces deux Conseils. Le Mustéchar Pacha croit que la décision du Conseil du Vilayet sans concours de l'Assemblée suffit pour la solution de ces affaires.

Arts. 44, 45, 46, et 47, sont acceptés conformément à la proposition originale.

Art. 48. Attendu que les Conseils des Vilayets sont naturellement préposés aux Conseils des Livas, et sont leur instance supérieure pour appelation, il sera nécessaire que ceux-la soient aussi conformes en composition à ceux-ci; ils seront composés de six membres élus. Ibrahim et Arif Beys, le Mustéchar Pacha, et Abdi Effendi acceptent la proposition originale sans le changement susmentionné, et sont aussi d'avis que dans l'absence des Valis les Mustéchars doivent présider aux séances du Conseil, et que dans l'absence des Mustéchars une personne notable choisie par le Vali soit chargée de la Présidence. Salih Bey, Ivanidi et Vassiliki Effendis, Husni Bey, Abdi Effendi et Aguiah Bey sont du même avis. La majorité décide que le Vali nommera à la présidence du Conseil, pour son absence, une personne notable, qui prendra sa place.

Art. 49. La majorité décide que le dernier alinéa de cet Article soit changé comme suit: "Le Conseil du Vilayet est responsable pour les décisions du Conseil. Dans le cas que le Vali dans une affaire quelconque ne demanderait pas l'avis du Conseil, ou dans le cas qu'il exécuterait une mesure qui n'avait pas été approuvée par le Conseil, alors la responsabilité restera exclusivement au Vali." Les votes dissidents sont celles d'Ibrahim Bey, du Mustéchar Pacha, de Salih et Arif Beys, et Abdi Effendi, que votent pour la forme originale de l'Article.

Arts. 50 jusqu'à 57 sont acceptés sans changement.

Cinquième Séance.

Le 16 Décembre, 1295 (28 Décembre, 1878), sous la présidence du Premier Président, en présence de tous les membres, excepté Mgr. le Métropolitain, Stéphan et Bochor Effendis, qui sont empêchés à cause d'indisposition, et de Dramali Aguiah et Arif Beys, et Athanas Effendi, qui sont empêchés par des affaires personnelles:—

Arts. 58 jusqu'à 65 sont lus et acceptés sans discussion.

Art. 66. La majorité décide à l'unanimité d'ajouter les mots: "Les Muftis des chefs-lieux des vilayets et les Chefs spirituels des communautés non-Mohamétanes," et cela pour dissiper toute doute possible. L'acceptation de l'alinéa suivant de cet Article est soutenu par le Mustéchar Pacha et Anis Effendi, mais la majorité décide qu'il serait préférable que les Naïbs (Juges de plus petites places) ainsi que les Présidents de Cours d'Appelation et les Inspecteurs des Finances, et les Inspecteurs Judiciaires ne soient pas de droit, et par vertu de leur emploi, membres de . . . .

Arts. 67 jusqu'à 71 sont acceptés sans changement.

Art. 72. La majorité décide de changer les mots, "d'après le règlement pour le personnel des Bureaux," en, "d'après les instructions parvenues au Chef (Président) du personnel des Bureaux," avec toutes les voix contre celle du Mustéchar Pacha, qui vote pour la forme proposée sans changement.

Art. 73, fut accepté sans discussion.

Art. 74. Le Mustéchar Pacha propose l'acceptation de cet Article sans changement; Ali et Aristarki Effendis et Salih Bey proposent la rejection entière de cet Article; Ibrahim et Husni Beys et Abdi Effendi proposent que le Vali pourra sans en demander la permission, s'il y voit la nécessité, dissoudre l'Assemblée, mais qu'il sera responsable si les raisons qu'il donnera pour cela à la Sublime Porte seront censées insuffisantes. La majorité décide d'ajouter que le Vali avec l'autorisation et sur ordre de la Sublime Porte pourra dissoudre l'Assemblée; qu'il sera toutefois responsable de ce que les raisons et motifs développés par lui pour la dissolution ne soient pas sans fondement, et que dans tous les cas, dans l'espace de deux mois après la dissolution, les nouvelles élections, et dans autre deux mois les séances de l'Assemblée, seront certainement exécutés et commencés.

Art. 75 est accepté entièrement sans discussion.

Art. 76. Hamdi et Salih Beys proposent d'ajouter "ou par vote secret" tandis que la majorité accepte l'Article sans changement.

Art. 77 est accepté sans discussion.

Art. 78. La majorité décide que le Président ordonnera l'exécution du procédé suivant si on prononce paroles qui puissent offenser la personne de Sa Majesté, ou des Princes Impériaux et des personnes de la Dynastie, ou si on se sert de paroles à l'égard du Vali, de l'Assemblée, et d'autres qui dépasseraient les limites de la décence. Le Mustéchar Pacha accepte l'Article sans changement.

Art. 79 est accepté, après lecture, sans changement et sans discussion.

Sixième Séance.

Sous la présidence du Président: Le Mustéchar Pacha, le Métropolitain, et Aguiah Bey ne peuvent attendre par raison d'indisposition, Salih Bey et Abdi Effendi sont autrement occupés. Une lettre d'Athanas Effendi annonce sa démission, motivée par des affaires privées.

Art. 80 est accepté sans discussion.

Art. 81. Il est décidé à l'unanimité des voix de changer les mots, "concernant la suspension du Statut," en "concernant la suspension des lois et du Statut."

Arts. 82 jusqu'à 85 sont acceptés sans changement.

Art. 86. Arif Bey en acceptant cet Article croit qu'il serait nécessaire dans le cas que les 10 pour cent qui seront abandonnés au vilayet pour des matières d'instruction et les travaux publics, ne suffisent pas, d'abandonner, encore une somme de 1 jusqu'à 5 pour cent des revenus bruts du vilayet pour le but ci-mentionné. La majorité décide que l'Assemblée sera compétente d'ajouter encore 10 pour cent des revenus bruts du vilayet pour les dépenses utiles ci-mentionnées, et d'augmenter d'après la nécessité la totalité des impôts, et de proposer le tout au Gouvernement Central pour obtenir son autorisation.

Art. 87. Les paragraphes concernant les compétences des Conseils Municipaux des cantons sont acceptés.

Art. 88 est accepté sans discussion.

Art. 89. Il est décidé à l'unanimité d'ajouter les mots: "D'après les dispositions d'une loi qui sera acceptée par la Chambre des Députés."

Art. 90 est accepté sans discussion.

Art. 91. Il est décidé à l'unanimité des voix d'ajouter à la fin de cet Article les mots: "L'Assemblée Générale aura aussi le droit de rectifier les registres en question."

Art. 92. Arif Bey propose d'ajouter après les mots "la conduite générale," les mots "et la conduite des employés dans les affaires de leur service et des abus éventuels." La majorité décide d'accepter la forme originale de l'Article et d'ajouter seulement la phrase suivante à la fin de l'Article: "Des plaintes éventuelles seront prises en considération par l'autorité compétente et les mesures nécessaires seront prises sans aucun délai."

Arts. 94, 95, sont acceptés sans changement.

Art. 96. Il est décidé à l'unanimité des voix d'ajouter par raison d'explication la phrase suivante: "Il n'est pas absolument nécessaire que les membres des Conseils soient pris des Membres de l'Assemblée Générale." La majorité décide aussi à toutes les voix contre celle d'Arif Bey, ce qui suit: "Attendu que pour les besoins locaux des différentes parties du vilayet, il sera désirable qu'il se trouve aussi dans le Conseil des membres des différentes parties du vilayet, et attendu qu'il sera difficile pour ceux-ci d'abandonner leurs affaires personnelles, et de rester un temps considérable dans le chef-lieu du vilayet pour vaquer aux affaires publiques, d'assigner à tous les membres d'après la décision de l'Assemblée Générale un certain salaire à titre de dédommagement, dont la hauteur aussi sera fixée par l'Assemblée Générale.

Art. 97. Il est décidé à l'unanimité que le Président de l'Assemblée Générale sera élu

par le Gouvernement Impérial, et que les Vice-Présidents et les Secrétaires seront nommés par l'Assemblée.

Arts. 98 et 99 sont acceptés sans discussion.

Art. 100. Il est décidé à l'unanimité des voix d'ajouter après les mots "L'Assemblée Générale a le droit de faire des propositions," les mots "Quand l'Assemblée Générale n'est pas réunie l'autorité compétente aura ce droit."

Art. 101. Il est décidé que le journal dont il est parlé dans cet Article sera imprimé en deux ou plusieurs langues.

Arts. 102 jusqu'à 105 sont acceptés sans discussion.

Art. 106. On décide avec toutes les voix, contre celles de Jomidi et Stéphan Effendis, qui votent pour la forme originale de l'Article, de changer les mots "on aura soin que la distance ne dépassera pas trois heures," en "ne dépassera pas cinq heures."

Art. 107 est accepté sans changement.

Art. 108. La majorité décide de changer les mots "des instructions du Gouvernement;" en "les lois de l'Empire," avec toutes les voix contre celles d'Arif et Ibrahim Beys, qui proposent d'accepter l'Article dans la forme proposée. En outre, la majorité décide que le dernier Alinéa de cet Article serait conçu comme suit: "Le Conseil du Liva (sandjak) est responsable de ses votes et décisions." Ibrahim and Arif Beys, Bohor et Vasiliki Effendis votent pour la forme proposée originairement.

Art. 109. Il est décidé à l'unanimité que les employés et le personnel du Bureau qui seront nommés de la part du Mutessarif, seront préalablement choisis par le Conseil. La majorité décide aussi de changer les mots "Le Mutessarif exécutera dans sa sphère les lois, les régulations, et les ordres qu'il recevra de la part du Vali," en "les lois, régulations et les ordres du Vali confirmant celles-ci." Arif Bey vote contre ce changement.

Art. 110 est accepté sans changement.

Art. 111. Il est décidé à l'unanimité des voix que la personne qui sera envoyée dans les cazas pour substituer le Caïmacam sera choisie par le Conseil.

Arts. 112 jusqu'à 116 sont acceptés sans changement.

Septième Séance.

Le $\frac{12}{24}$ Décembre, 1879, sous la présidence du Premier Président et en présence de tous les membres, excepté Bohor Effendi.

Le Tableau des affaires qui seront gérées par le Mutessarif est lu. Il est décidé à l'unanimité des voix de changer le titre de ce Tableau comme suit: "Les Mutessarifs vaqueront et décideront les affaires ci-dessous énumerées et cela d'après les lois et régulations et d'après les stipulations et décisions des Conseils compétents."

Art. 117. Il est décidé à l'unanimité de changer l'alinéa qui traite de Chefs spirituels des communautés non-Mohamétanes comme suit: "Le Chef spirituel de la communauté Grecque et le Grand Rabbin assisteront toujours au séance; s'il y a d'autres Chefs spirituels, ils jouiront du même droit;" le reste de l'Article est accepté sans changement.

Arts. 118 jusqu'à 129 sont acceptés sans changement.

Art. 130. Le Métropolitain, Anis Effendi, Salih et Aguiah Beys, et Abdi Effendi, proposent que les membres du Conseil du Sandjak auront le droit de communiquer avec l'Assemblée Générale ou avec le Ministère de l'Intérieur; mais la majorité se décide pour la forme proposée.

Art. 131. Il est décidé à l'unanimité d'ajouter après les mots "d'engager," les mots, "en général les affaires concernant le Gouvernement ne peuvent servir et sont exempts de garantie."

Art. 132 est accepté sans changement.

Art. 133. Salih, Hamdi, Aguiah, et l'autre Aguiah et Arif Beys, Stéphan et Christaki Effendis, proposent d'ajouter après les mots "comme digues et réservoirs," les mots "sur lesquels le Conseil Administratif délibérera toujours encore après que le Conseil de la Municipalité aura communiqué son avis et sa décision," mais la majorité accepte l'Article sans le changement proposé.

Art. 134 est accepté sans changement.

Art. 135. Le Mustéchar Pacha, Ibrahim et Dramali Aguiah Beys, proposent d'accepter cet Article sans changement, tandis que la majorité décide pour un salaire.

Art. 136. Le Mustéchar Pacha, Ibrahim et Arif Bey, et Abdi Effendi, proposent d'accepter cet Article sans changement, la majorité décide de charges les mots, "des instructions du Gouvernment," en "des lois de l'Empire."

Arts. 137 et 144 sont acceptés sans discussion et sans changement.

A la lecture du Tableau contenant les affaires spécialement réservées aux Caïmacams, la majorité décide: "Attendu que les Articles 14, 18, et 19 contenus dans ce Tableau concernent spécialement les Conseils Municipaux; que les Articles 12 et 13 concernent les Conseils des communautés religieuses (non-Musulmanes), et que les Articles 6 et 10 appartiennent à la sphère des Conseils Administratifs, que ces Articles, et les affaires dont ils parlent soient discutés par les Conseils respectifs mentionnés ci-dessus, et que les décisions de ces Conseils soient exécutées." Le Mustéchar Pacha accepte ces Articles sans le changement proposé dans leur forme originale.

Art. 145. Il est décidé à l'unanimité de changer l'alinéa sur les Chefs des communautés religieuses (non-Musulmanes), ainsi qu'il suit: "Dans les lieux ou se trouve un Chef spirituel de la communauté Grecque et un Grand Rabbin, ceux-ci prendront toujours part au Conseil; quant aux Chefs des autres communautés religieuses, ils prendront alternativement (à tour) part aux dits Conseils.

Arts. 146 jusqu'à 152 sont acceptés sans changement.

Huitième Seance.

Le 23 Décembre, 1295 (4 Janvier, 1880), sous la présidence du Président. En présence de tous les membres excepté de Husni Bey, Dramali Aguiah Bey, Hamdi Bey, Arif Bey, et Abdi Bohor, Samuel et Jomidi Effendis.

Art. 153 est accepté sans changement.

Art. 154. Il est décidé à l'unanimité d'ajouter dans la phrase suivante: "De ceux qui font communication que les Chefs des Municipalités ne sont pas capables de remplir et d'exécuter leurs devoirs," après les mots "font communication," les mots, "près l'Assemblée Permanente."

Art. 155. La majorité décide de changer les mots, "s'il serait nécessaire, en "si une conduite contraire à la loi et au devoir serait portée à la connaissance de l'Assemblée Permanente, le Vali aura le droit d'abolir;" et d'ajouter les mots suivants: "les membres de la Commission Provisoire seront élus par les Conseils Administratifs, confirmés par l'Assemblée et introduits dans leur office par le Vali." Aguiah Bey propose: "Comme les membres de la Commission Provisoire qui seront élus nouvellement à une formation nouvelle de la dite Commission n'auront pas l'expérience nécessaire de former la nouvelle Commission en prenant les personnes pour membres, qui, à la première élection, seraient restées dans la minorité, et cela pour raison de ne faire souffrir la gestion des affaires."

Arts. 156 jusqu'à 161 sont acceptés sans changement, seulement dans l'Article 159 le mot "octroi" est changé pour le mot "Douhoulié" (qui rend en Ture exactement le mot Français octroi), et cela à l'unanimité des voix.

Art. 162. Il est décidé à l'unanimité des voix que l'officier de police qui sera nommé pour les cantons n'aura pas un grade au-dessous de Mulazim ("Lieutenant").

Art. 163 fut accepté en principe.

La résolution suivante fut acceptée à l'unanimité: "Bien qu'il fut décidé que le poste du Mudir soit un poste honorifique, il est fort désirable que les Mudirs et leurs adjoints soient salariés et que leurs salaires soient fixés par l'Assemblée Générale." Cela est motivé par le fait que les Mudirs et leurs adjoints sont en effet employés du Gouvernement, que leur tâche est bien importante bien qu'elle n'atteigne pas l'importance des Caïmacams, qu'il est nécessaire, pour prévenir des abus et des péculations arbitraires, que le Mudir soit une personne capable, honnête; qu'il faut assurer que le Mudir ne fasse pas cause commune avec les Percepteurs des impôts, et qu'il faut mettre les habitants à l'abri d'un abus quelconque commis de la part des Mudirs; pour ces raisons il serait aussi désirable que les Mudirs aient le droit de retraite et qu'eux-mêmes et aussi les Caissiers soient pourvus des garants, et que les Mudirs puissent correspondre directement avec le Caïmacam. En outre, les Mudirs doivent être capables d'écrire un bon style, pour éviter l'état de choses qui existait sous le régime des anciens Mukhtars des villages. Il serait aussi très-désirable que les Mudirs soient élus de la part des habitants, afin que ceux-ci puissent avoir pleine confiance en eux. Il est aussi désirable que l'adjoint du Mudir, le Caissier, et un subalterne jouissent d'un salaire suffisant, et que pour maintenir l'ordre public dans chaque canton il se trouve un "oubach" (caporal) avec quelques zaptiés.

Art. 164, est accepté sans changement.

Art. 165. Il est décidé à l'unanimité des voix que l'Imam et le prêtre (curé) seront membres de droit du Conseil Cantonal, mais qu'ils ne peuvent être ni Mudir ni adjoint du Mudir.

Art. 166. Il est décidé à l'unanimité que le Mudir et les adjoints, s'ils commettent

des fautes graves dans l'exercice de leur pouvoir et devoir, et si des plaintes justes sont élevées contre leur gestion des affaires, seront déposés, et changés après examen et vérification de la part des Conseils Administratifs.

Arts. 167, 168, et 169, sont acceptés sans changement.

Art. 170. A l'exception de l'alinéa qui est changé comme en haut et qui dit que les Imams et les prêtres sont de droit membres du Conseil Cantonal, cet Article est accepté sans changement.

Arts. 171 et 172 sont acceptés sans changement.

Neuvième Séance.

Le 28 Decembre, 1295 (9 Janvier, 1880), sous la présidence du Premier Président en présence de tous les membres exceptés le Mustéchar Pacha et Stéphan Effendi.

Art. 173. La majorité décide d'omettre les alinéas qui sont après les mots suivants: "sont approuvé de la part du Caimacam."

Art. 174 est accepté sans changement.

Art. 175. Il est décidé de maintenir les quatres premières lignes de cet Article et de supprimer tout le reste.

Art. 176. Les dépenses qui devront être faites par la Caisse des Cantons consistent dans un local spécialement désigné comme bureau du Mudir et son ameublement, puis dans les taxes directes et indirectes sur les immeubles qui sont la propriété du canton, en outre dans le salaire du fonctionnaire qui sera employé dans le service de la commune, et dans les dépenses qui sont mentionnées dans le règlement pour les communes; toutes les autres dépenses sont réservées au compte du Trésor et seront des revenus généraux de l'Empire. Attendu que presque la plupart des habitants des villages fermes sont tellement appauvris qu'ils ne peuvent à peine payer les impôts réguliers, attendu qu'en recouvrant ces impôts on rencontre les plus grandes difficultés, attendu qu'en ajoutant de nouveaux impôts aux anciens la population paysanne serait presque anéantie, attendu que cette impuissance, et ce non-payment des taxes pourraient servir de mauvais exemples, et être accompagné des pires conséquences pour les Caisses des cazas, sandjaks, et vilayets, on décide: Comme les cantons ne sont pas en état de payer d'autres impôts outre les impôts ordinaires et existants, de n'exiger aucun autre impôt pour le des habitants des cantons.

Arts. 177 et 178 sont acceptés sans changement.

Art. 179. Bien que le contenu de cet Article soit accepté en principe, on décide à l'unanimité: Attendu que les Mukhtars sont employés en partie pour la collection des taxes, qu'ils n'ont pas de traitement pour ce travail et que pour cette raison ils seront négligents ou peuvent être illoyaux dans ces affaires, de leur assigner une partie des revenus du collecteur des taxes qui est officiellement envoyé par le Gouvernement.

Arts. 180 jusqu'à 186 sont acceptés sans changement, seulement Article 186 il est décidé d'enumérer parmi les affaires du Mukhtar aussi la délivrance pour la vente et l'achat des bestiaux et de changer ici les mots: "remettre à la Caisse," en "remettre à la Caisse de Canton."

Art. 184. Le Métropolitain propose que les affaires d'héritage et tout ce qui concerne les biens des orphelins soient gérées exclusivement et indépendamment de la part des Métropolitains, mais la majorité accepte l'Article sans changement.

Art. 187 jusqu'a 199 sont acceptés sans discussion.

Art. 200. Aguiah, Salih, Hamdi, Husni Beys, et Abdi Effendi proposent d'envoyer les billets pour les votes dans les villages, afin que les villageois pourraient y écrire leurs élections, et puis envoyer ou porter eux-mêmes ces votes dans le chef-lieu du canton, par considération que dans le cas que tous les hommes soient convoqués dans le centre du canton, les villages resteraient tout-à-fait dépouillés d'hommes; mais la majorité, en considération que par un tel procédé les élections pourraient être soumises à des abus, a décidé le maintien de l'Article sans changement, du moins jusqu'à ce que les habitants auront acquis une certaine familiarité avec le mode, la valeur, et l'importance des élections publiques.

Articles 201 jusqu'à 206 sont acceptés sans changement.

Dixième Séance.

Le 30 Décembre, 1295 (1er Janvier, 1880), sous la présidence du Président, et en présence de tous les membres, excepté d'Arif et Dramali Aguiah Bey, de Bohor et Samuel Effendis:—

En considération que les centres des cazas sont souvent bien loin des villages, et qu'en

conséquence il est bien difficile et exigent de grands frais de la part de la population d'aller au chef-lieu du caza pour payer les impôts; attendu aussi que cette question est depuis longtemps considérée comme une des plus nécessaires et importantes pour des réformes, et qu'elle est le plus souvent la cause de retards considérables, il est décidé d'ajouter à l'Article 164 ce qui suit:—

"Les Moukhtars en collectionnant les impôts les verseront aussitôt que possible dans la Caisse du canton, contre une quittance délivré par le Mudir ou son substitut, et scellée par celui-ci et par le Caissier du canton. Le Mudir enverra chaque semaine les sommes reçues, avec une liste où les singles postes seront spécifiés à la Caisse du caza, et recevra une quittance délivrée pour le canton dont les impôts sont arrivés de cette manière. Dans les cantons ne peut-être dépensé un seul para de ces recettes qui seront entièrement délivrées à la Caisse du caza. Même les salaires du Mudir, de son Adjoint, et du Caissier sont payés contre quittance à la Caisse du caza, de même que toutes les constatations sur un changement, et tous les différends sur les impôts seront toujours traités dans les chefs-lieux des cazas, jamais dans ceux des cantons."

Arts. 207 and 208 sont acceptés sans changement.

Art. 209. Il fut décidé à l'unanimité que les membres du Conseil Administratif des cazas seront élus par les Anciens de chaque village, et que l'on n'enverra pas des personnes spéciales chargées de cette élection dans les villages, mais que ces élections se feront par l'intermédiaire du Conseil du canton, et que chaque congrégation d'Anciens aura une voix pour ces élections. Salih et Hamdy Beys, et Aly Effendi proposent de dresser aussi par chaque village, et d'y envoyer un registre contenant les noms des électeurs, mais la majorité accepte l'Article dans sa forme originaire.

Art. 210 sera changé d'après les changements décidés à l'Article précédent.

Art. 211. D'après ce qui a été décidé dans l'Article 209, il doit être dit ici que dans les bourgs aussi les congrégations d'Anciens de chaque quartier éliront les membres pour les Conseils de Cantons, et qu'ils enverront le procès-verbal de l'élection, scellé de leurs sceaux, et contenant les noms des élus, aux Conseils de cantons; ces élections se feront ou par majorité ou par unanimité.

Art. 212 Il fut décidé de changer le mot "canton" en "village et quartier," puisque dans le cas que dans les listes pour les élections se trouvaient des noms des hommes qui n'ont pas le droit d'élection, tout le procédé de l'élection serait considéré absolument comme nul et non avenu. Le reste de l'Article fut accepté sans changement.

Arts. 213 jusqu'à 216 furent acceptés sans changement, seulement dans

Art. 215 il fut décidé d'ajouter que les Conseils des communautés religieuses (non-Musulmanes) consisteront de six à douze membres.

Art. 217. Il fut décidé que les membres du Conseil Administratif des sandjaks seront élus par les Conseils Municipaux, et que cet Article sera changé d'après cette décision, et que le reste de cet Article sera accepté sans changement.

Art. 218 doit être changé d'après les décisions qui furent prises à l'Article 217.

Arts. 219 jusqu'à 221 sont acceptés sans changement.

Comme il a été décidé à la majorité des voix, qu'aussi dans le Conseil Administratif des vilayets se trouveront des membres élus, il fut nécessaire d'ajouter ici une nouvelle section avec le titre, "Les Elections pour les Vilayets," qui contient les cinq Articles suivants:—

1er Article. Les personnes qui peuvent être élues pour le Conseil Administratif des vilayets doivent être éligibles pour les Conseils des Cantons. Ils doivent être des personnes communément respectées, et payer par an de leurs propres terrains sans les terrains d'Etat, qu'ils travaillent, directement la somme de 300 piastres d'impôts fonciers. Ils seront élus pour deux ans, et chaque année la moitié sera renouvelée; la première année la moitié des membres qui doivent quitter le Conseil sera décidé par tirage au sort.

2e Article. Les membres du Conseil Administratif du vilayet seront choisis par les membres du Conseil des Cazas de cette manière: quand le temps pour les élections est arrivé, le Vali du vilayet notifie cela aux Mutessarifs, et ceux-ci aux Caïmacams; et ceux-ci donnent notification aux Conseils Administratifs des cazas. Alors chacun des membres élus du Conseil choisira un homme du vilayet lequel il considère digne d'être membre du Conseil Administratif du vilayet, écrit son nom secrètement sur un papier, et met ce papier après l'avoir signé ou muni de son sceau dans une enveloppe, fournie antérieurement au Conseil; cette enveloppe est prise scellée en présence du Conseil avec le sceau du Conseil, et envoyé au Conseil Administratif du sandjak.

3e Article. Dans les chefs-lieux des sandjaks, où il n'y a que le Conseil de Caza, le Conseil Administratif du sandjak aura le droit de veiller sur cette élection. Le Conseil Municipal du caza, où se trouve le chef-lieu du sandjak et les Conseils de Cantons qui s'y trouvent, éliront quatre personnes ou à l'unanimité ou à la majorité des voix, mettront les billets d'élections de la même manière que les Conseils des Cazas, dans une enveloppe qui,

contenant aussi les enveloppes venues des cazas, sera scellée du sceau du Conseil du sandjak et envoyée au Conseil Supérieur ensemble avec un procès-verbal sur l'élection.

4e Article. Quand les enveloppes contenant les élections des différents sandjaks seront arrivées, l'Assemblée Supérieure et le Tribunal d'Appelation s'unissent à une séance commune en présence du Vali, alors les enveloppes seront ouvertes, et un Tableau formé pour constater le nom qui réunit la majorité des voix à égalité de voix, décide le lot. Alors le Vali annonce le nom des membres élus de cette manière, et un procès-verbal de tout cet acte, scellé par le Conseil Supérieur, est envoyé à la Sublime Porte à Constantinople.

5e Article. Les personnes qui auront gagné la majorité seront appelés à faire part du Conseil Administratif du vilayet, selon que par les raisons indiquées à l'Article 191. Une place dans le Conseil sera libre; les noms des personnes élues et de ceux restées dans la minorité seront conservés dans les archives du Conseil Administratif du vilayet.

Arts. 222, jusqu'à 229 sont acceptés sans changement, seulement dans

Art. 222 on décide de mettre au lieu des mots: "concernant l'élection des membres du Conseil d'Administration du caza," les mots: "concernant l'élection des membres du Conseil d'Administration du sandjak," et dans

Art. 229, d'ajouter après le mot "sandjak" dans la phrase suivante: "au chef-lieu de chaque caza et sandjak," encore le mot "vilayet."

Art. 230 On décide à l'unanimité de changer le mot: "Juges" en "Chef" (ou Président), pour que les membres adjoints des Tribunaux seront choisis par la population, qu'une Commission formée de l'Assemblée et des Notables du vilayet nommera un nombre cinq fois plus grand de personnes capables qu'en sera réellement élus, que l'élection sera faite d'après le mode indiqué pour l'élection des Conseils Administratifs, que les membres du Tribunal d'Appel seront choisis du Consul Administratif du vilayet, les membres du Tribunal du sandjak des membres du Conseil Administratif du sandjak; et les membres du Tribunal du caza des membres du Conseil du caza; que les membres du Tribunal de Commerce seront aussi choisis de la même manière, que les noms des membres élus seront communiqués au Ministère de la Justice pour être confirmé dans leurs postes que chaque deux années a moitié des membres sera changée et que tous ces membres seront salariés.

Arts. 231 jusqu'à 234 sont acceptés sans aucun changement.

Onzième Séance.

Le $\frac{7}{19}$ Janvier, 1880, sous la présidence du Premier Président, et en présence de tous les membres, excepté les deux Aguiahs Beys.

Art. 235 est accepté sans changement.

Art. 236. Il est décidé à l'unanimité d'ajouter les mots explicatifs à la phrase qui traite sur l'assistance de la part du Gouvernement: "qui sera spécialement accordé de la part du Gouvernement," et de changer les mots "partition des dépenses du vilayet" en "partition des recettes nettes du vilayet."

Art. 237. Il est décidé à l'unanimité de conserver deux lignes de cet Article, et de changer les lignes suivantes comme suit: "Le réglement intérieur des écoles mentionnées, l'appointement, et si c'est nécessaire, la déposition des maîtres et leur changement sera réservé aux communautés (respectives); aussi comme il a été dit dans un Article spécial, les revenus de morte-main, qui sont spécialement désignés pour les écoles, leur seront remis.

Art. 238 est accepté, seulement il fut décidé à l'unanimité que la langue Grecque sera considérée comme la deuxième langue quant à sa considération, et qu'elle sera préférée à d'autres langues.

Arts. 239 jusqu'à 242 sont acceptés sans changement.

Art. 243 est accepté, seulement il est ajouté que les inspecteurs qui seront nommes pour les écoles, seront au fait des matières qui sont enseignées dans les écoles et qu'ils seront des personnes compétentes.

Art. 244. Il est décidé, attendu que le changement et la déposition d'un maître qui montrera de la négligence dans ses devoirs appartient aux matières réservées aux communautés, d'ajouter à la fin de cet Article où il est dit: "Le Directeur de l'Instruction Publique pourra destituer," encore le mot "aussi."

Arts. 245 jusqu'à 247 sont acceptés, seulement dans

Art. 247 il est décidé à l'unanimité des voix d'ajouter aux mots "contre l'Etat" les mots "contre les lois de l'Etat," et au mot "à l'employé" d'ajouter les mots "ou au garant de l'employé."

Art. 248 est accepté sans changement.

Art. 249. Il est décidé à l'unanimité d'ajouter aux mots "si son incapacité est évidente il sera déposé," encore les mots "et si incapacité sera reconnue par le Conseil Administratif."

Art. 250. Le Mustéchar Pacha propose l'acceptation sans changement. La majorité décide ce qui suit: Au poste de Caïmacam ne peuvent être appelées que des personnes qui ont été examinées par la Commission pour le choix des employés, et qui ont reçu de la part de cette Commission un certificat. Hamdi Bey propose que les personnes examinées par la susdite Commission soient élues et choisies pour des postes vacants par la Commission Administrative et nommés par le Vali, ce qui est accepté à l'unanimité des voix.

Art. 251 est accepté sans changement.

Art. 252. Attendu que il n'est pas toujours possible d'avoir la confirmation du Ministère de l'Intérieur dont on parle dans le dernier alinéa de cet Article, il est décidé qu'il sera assez de porter l'affaire à la connaissance du dit Ministère par la voie du Vali.

Arts. 253 jusqu'à 256 sont acceptés, seulement dans

Art. 256 on a décidé que la Commission pour le choix et l'examen des employés consistera de huit personnes, c'est-à-dire du Mustéchar, Defterdar, Directeur des Bureaux, Inspecteur Judiciaire, et de quatre membres de l'Assemblée.

Art. 257 est accepté sans changement.

Art. 258. La majorité se décide pour la forme suivante de cet Article:—

"Le journal (registre) de l'examen contiendra les noms de ceux qui auront reçu par voie d'examen le certificat de la part de la Commission d'Examen."

Le Mustéchar Pacha, le Métropolitain, et Salih Bey, acceptent l'Article dans sa forme originale.

Art. 259. La majorité décide que dans le dernier alinéa de cet Article le mot "dans l'examen" soit remplacé par "dans la nomination," seulement Hamdi Bey veut que l'examen soit fait par le Conseil Administratif.

Arts. 260 jusqu'à 262 sont acceptés sans changement.

Douzième Séance.

Le $\frac{8}{20}$ Janvier, 1880, en présence de tous les membres excepté Aguiah et Arif Beys, le Métropolitain, Abdi, Stephan, Bohor, Ivanidi, Aristarki et Samuel Effendis.

Arts. 263 jusqu'à 268 sont acceptés sans changement.

Art. 269. Il est décidé d'ajouter aux mots "les fonctionnaires du vilayet" encore les mots "et les membres élus de la Commission Administrative du vilayet."

Art. 270. La majorité décide de conférer les vérifications à un des Présidents de l'Assemblée, tandis que le Mustéchar Pacha veut accepter l'Article sans changement.

Arts. 271 et 272 sont acceptés sans changement.

Arts. 273 jusqu'à 292 sont acceptés sans changement.

Art. 293. Il est décidé à l'unanimité que les dispositions confirmées par l'Assemblée Générale du vilayet seront exécutées immédiatement par le Gouvernement du vilayet.

Arts. 294 jusqu'à 304 sont acceptés sans changement.

Art. 305. Il est décidé que les instructions seront approuvées et confirmées par l'Assemblée Générale.

Arts. 306 jusqu'à 324 sont acceptés sans changement.

Art. 325. Il est décidé que le Statut (Règlement) après avoir été approuvé par l'Assemblée Générale sera envoyé à Constantinople pour être officiellement examiné.

Arts. 326 jusqu'à 337 sont acceptés sans changement.

Art. 338. La majorité décide d'ajouter à la fin de cet Article les mots, "avec cette condition qu'aussi ses amis ne seront pas privés de plaider et expliquer la cause," avec toutes les voix [*sic*] celle du Mustéchar Pacha qui accepte l'Article sans changement.

Arts. 339 jusqu'à 357 sont acceptés sans changement et sans discussion.

Treizième Séance.

Le $\frac{11}{23}$ Janvier, 1880, sous la présidence du Premier Président en présence de tous les membres excepté Anis Effendi, Salih et Husni Beys, et le Métropolitain Effendi.

Art. 358 est accepté par la majorité sans changement, tandis que, Vassilaki, Stéphan, Aristarki, et Bohor et Samuel Effendis proposent qu'en cas de besoin de satisfactions celles-ci soient faites de la part du Gouvernement Central.

Art. 359 est accepté sans changement.

Art. 360. La majorité décide que les ouvriers qui seront engagés, bien qu'ils arriveront et seront occupés collectivement, ne seront regardés comme engagés que pour chaque

individu séparément: le Mastéchar Pacha et Arif Bey acceptent l'Article sans changement.

Art. 361. Il est décidé à l'unanimité des voix que les ouvriers recevront la moitié de leur salaire en argent et la moitié en vivres.

Arts. 362 jusqu'à 367 sont acceptés sans changement.

Art. 368. Il est décidé à l'unanimité des voix que sans un ordre et permission spécial de la part de l'Assemblée Générale les ouvriers ne peuvent être éloignés plus d'une distance de cinq heures.

Arts. 369 et 370 sont acceptés sans changement.

Art. 371. La discussion de cet Article est ajournée.

Art. 372 est accepté sans changement.

Art. 373. Cet Article doit être changé d'après la décision suivante: "Les employés, subalternes et supérieurs, qui seront employés dans la construction des voies de communication, seront choisis et nommés par le Conseil Administratif."

Art. 374. Il est décidé à l'unanimité qu'ils seront choisis, nommés, et que la nomination leur sera communiqué aussi de la part du Conseil Administratif.

Arts. 375 jusqu'à 393 sont acceptés sans changement.

Art. 394. Il est décidé que les ouvriers qui seront engagés pour réparations reçoivent les mêmes salaires que les autres.

Arts. 395 jusqu'à 409 sont acceptés sans changement.

Quatorzième Séance.

Le $\frac{13}{25}$ Janvier, 1880, sous la présidence du Vice-Président en présence de tous les membres excepté le Président, Ibrahim Bey, et Bohor Effendi.

Art. 410. Comme le système des dîmes est beaucoup inférieur au système d'un impôt basé sur le terrain, et comme le présent système offre beaucoup d'inconvénients pour l'Etat et pour les particuliers, il est décidé à l'unanimité de se prononcer sur les grands avantages qui résulteraient d'une adoption de ce nouveau système pour laquelle ce vilayet offre toutes les facilités.

Art. 411. Comme les instructions et les Tableaux nécessaires pour les collecteurs des dîmes ne seront pas finis à temps, il est décidé de remettre cette tâche aux Moukhtars et d'abandonner aussi aux Moukhtars les bénéfices qui dérivent de cette tâche.

Arts. 412 jusqu'à 418 traitent des instructions et règles pour la collection des dîmes, mais comme on s'est prononcé ci-dessus énergiquement pour l'abolition des dîmes, ces Articles ne sont pas nécessaires dans le livre des lois.

Art. 419. Le Mustéchar Pasha propose d'accepter l'Article sans changement; la majorité décide, attendu que le propriétaire d'un mulk* paye outre l'impôt, "temettu"† encore l'impôt foncier, et que dans le cas, qu'il exercerait un métier dans sa propriété, si on voulait prendre de lui encore l'impôt sur le revenu (sa maison considérée comme louée), il payerait trois sortes d'impôts, de ne prendre dans de telles circonstances l'impôt sur les revenus.

Arts. 420 jusqu'à 426 sont acceptés sans changement.

Art. 427. Il est décidé que, comme les billets sur l'impôt payé sont la preuve que l'impôt a été payé, ces billets ne seront pas seulement écrits et délivrés par le collecteur des dîmes et d'impôts, mais aussi signé par le Caissier et quelqu'autre employé.

Art. 428. Il est ajouté que onze jours après la date de l'arrivée de la lettre officielle de communication, l'Assemblée Générale donnera les ordres et les nominations nécessaires pour l'exécution des affaires ci-décrites et pour le paiement des impôts avec le temps.

Art. 429 est accepté sans changement.

Art. 430. Comme les matières qui ne sont pas contraires aux règles et ordonnances de cette loi sont toujours considérées comme ayant toute la valeur, et comme les matières et régulations qui sont contraires à cette loi doivent être élaborés de nouveau et en accord avec cette loi, le contenu de cet Article sera changé d'après cela.

Articles 431 jusqu'à 449 sont acceptés sans changement.

Quinzième Séance.

Le $\frac{22\text{ Janvier}}{3\text{ Février}}$ 1880, sous la présidence du Premier Président, en présence de tous les membres excepté Husni Bey, Daramali Agiah Bey, Abdi Effendi, Bohor et Samuel Effendis.

* Possession libre qui n'est pas (Vakuf) morte-main.
† Pour la Municipalité.

DEUXIÈME LECTURE DU PROJET.

Art. 4. La majorité décide de changer les mots, "après quarante-huit heures," en "après un terme de quarante-huit heures au plus."

Art. 14. Pour éviter toute interprétation fausse et tout malentendu, il est décidé à l'unanimité d'omettre tout-à-fait le mot "état" (circumstances) à la fin de cet Article.

Art. 19. Les Articles et les discussions de la première lecture sur cet Article sont lus. On a répété quelle importance extraordinaire s'attache aujourd'hui aux progrès dans l'instruction publique et dans les travaux publics, que les 10 pour cent dont il est fait mention dans le Projet ne suffiront point aux dépenses nécessaires, que les revenus d'un pays s'augmentent dans le même dégré que les voies publiques, des ponts, des écoles sont construites; que si l'on considère tous ces points, les 20 pour cent exprimés dans la première lecture ne suffiront pas à ces besoins urgents et qu'en conséquence de cela on prendra une résolution disant qu'il serait d'une extrême importance pour le vilayet si la bienveillance du Gouvernement Impérial abandonnait des revenus nets du vilayet, déduction faite des frais pour les besoins locaux, la somme de 25 pour cent pour les besoins ci-dessus mentionnés. Cette résolution fut prise à l'unanimité des voix.

Art. 27. Le Métropolitain Effendi, qui ne se trouvait pas présent à la première lecture de cet Article, déclare adhérer à ceux qui votaient alors pour ce que les Mustéchars soient les substituts.

Art. 34. La majorité décide d'omettre la dernière alinéa tout-à-fait, tandis que Arif Bey vote pour le maintien de l'Article dans sa forme originaire.

Art. 48. Il est décidé à l'unanimité que la mode des discussions dans les Conseils Administratifs du vilayet, et la gestion des affaires et des actes sera le même que pour les Conseils Administratifs des livas.

Quinzième Séance.

Le 25 Janvier, 1295 (6 Février, 1880), sous la présidence du Président, en présence de tous les membres excepté du Mustechar Pacha, Arif Bey, Hamdi Bey, Damarali Agiah Bey, et Samuel Effendi.

Art. 51. Le Métropolitan Effendi, Stefan Effendi, Ivanidi Effendi, Kristaki Effendi, et Kostantinidi Effendi proposent que le Mustéchar devrait être Grec, si le Vali est Musulman. La majorité décide qu'il soit dans ce cas Chrétien, et Salih Bey ne peut admettre du tout ici une telle distinction, parce que ce paragraphe traité et fait seulement l'énumération des devoirs du Vali, pas autre chose.

Art. 62. Il fut décidé à l'unanimité que des revenus de mort-main, après déduction complète des exigences des fondations pour lesquelles elles avaient été érigées, un quart sera abandonné au vilayet pour pourvoir aux dépenses de l'instruction publique.

Art. 66. Le Métropolitain Effendi, qui ne s'était pas trouvé présent à la première lecture, déclare adhérer à la majorité.

Art. 68. La majorité décide que la moitié des membres seront Musulmans, la moitié non-Musulmans; seulement Salih Bey et Ivanidi Effendi acceptent l'Article sans changement.

Art. 71. La majorité décide qu'aussi la moitié des membres dont la nomination est réglée dans cet Article sera Musulman, et la moitié non-Musulman, tandis que Salih et Ibrahim Beys et Husni Bey sont pour le maintien de cet Article sans changement.

Art. 72. Le Métropolitan, qui était absent à la première lecture, déclare adhérer à la majorité. En outre, il est décidé à l'unanimité que l'Assemblée Générale siégera deux mois.

Art. 73. Il fut décidé à l'unanimité que dans le cas où les affaires ne seraient pas faites dans deux mois, il y aurait une prolongation de quinze jours.

Art. 74. La dissension qui s'est produite à la première lecture de cet Article a été applanie de manière que l'on a décidé à l'unanimité que le Vali, dans le cas où la dissolution et la suspension de l'Assemblée Générale seraient necessaire, prendra la permission pour cet acte de la Sublime Porte; et qu'il pourra suspendre cette Assemblée seulement après que la dite permission soit parvenue dans ses mains; et qu'après dissolution de l'Assemblée elle doit s'assembler à la fin de tout au plus trois mois à date de la dissolution.

Art. 75. On a décidé à l'unanimité des voix que le Bureau de l'Assemblée sera composé de trois personnes, qui seront élevés des membres par des votes secrets, de manière que la personne qui réunira le plus de votes sera Premier Président, le Vice-Président [*sic*] porteront les noms de deuxième et troisième Président, et ils seront nommés en relation des votes gagnés pour ces postes, et qu'en cas d'égalité de voix le Président décidera au lieu du lot.

Art. 78. Il fut décidé, à l'unanimité des voix, que dans le cas où un membre se servirait des paroles qui puissent offenser Sa Majesté Impériale ou les Princes et dignitaires de l'Empire, ou le Vali, ou l'Assemblée, le Président demandera la rétractation de ces mots, et que le membre coupable, dans le cas où il refuserait cette rétractation, ou qu'il répéterait son expression, devra s'excuser devant l'Assemblée; et dans le cas où il refuserait aussi cela, il sera exclu de l'Assemblée.

Seizième Séance.

Le 28 Janvier, 1295 (9 Février, 1880), sous la présidence du Premier Président, en présence de tous les membres excepté Damarali Aginh Bey, Arif Bey, et Abdi Effendi.

Art. 86. Il fut décidé à l'unanimité d'omettre tout-à-fait cet Article, parce que les impôts actuels sont déjà trop lourds pour créer de nouveaux, et parce que l'Etat souffre trop de la mauvaise situation de ses finances, pour pouvoir abandonner quelque chose au but dont il était question dans cet Article.

Art. 87. Il fut décidé à l'unanimité d'éliminer l'alinéa qui parle d'une augmentation des impôts, parce que une telle augmentation n'avait pas été acceptée, puis de garder dans les Caisses municipales des cazas, livas, et vilayets les sommes qui seront abandonnées aux vilayets, et cela par quittance donnée par le Caissier et un employé de la Caisse, de dépenser ces sommes d'après les exigences, de manière que le compte de chaque liva et caza sera séparé, de tenir le compte de ces sommes du commencement du mois de Mars de chaque année, et de donner à l'Assemblée Générale la faculté de disposer sur ces sommes pour des écoles et travaux publics.

Art. 90. Il est décidé à l'unanimité d'ajouter après les mots "qui concernent l'Administration," encore les mots "qui concernent les affaires de toutes sortes proposées par le Président ou par un des membres.

Art. 96. Il est décidé à l'unanimité que la moitié des membres de ce Conseil sera Musulmane et la moitié non-Musulmane, que dans le cas de besoin les personnes qui sont restés dans la minorité à l'élection seraient appelées d'après le nombre des voix qu'ils ont pu gagner.

Art. 98. Il est décidé à l'unanimité de mettre au lieu du mot "Uléma," le mot "Mufti de la ville." Quant à l'alinéa suivant, Ibrahim Bey, Husni, Hamdi, et Salih Beys, et Anis Effendi et Ali Effendi proposent d'accepter sans changement, la majorité décide que le Président donnera notice officiellement trois jours auparavant d'une telle séance au Mufti et aux Chefs des communautés (non-Musulmanes), et qu'il les invitera formellement. Les décisions prises sans une telle invitation préalable seront considérées comme nulles et non-avenues.

Dix-septième Séance.

Le 1er Février, 1295 (13 Février, 1880), sous la présidence du Premier Président, et en présence de tous les membres, excepté les deux Aguiah Beys et Hamdi Bey, Bohor et Samuel Effendis. Le membre Pehritchli Husni Bey est parti pour son domicile en congé par raison des affaires qui l'excusent.

Art. 108. Le Métropolite Effendi qui n'avait pas été présent à la première lecture, adhère aux propositions de la majorité.

Art. 113. Il fut décidé définitivement de faire rassembler les dîmes par les Mukhtars et d'élider vers la fin le mot "Premier Tahsildar" (Collectionneur des Dîmes).

Art. 117. Le Métropolitain Stéphan et Christaki Effendis proposent que le Chef de la Correspondance du Vilayet et le Premier Comptable ne soient pas de droit de leur part membres, ou seulement avec voix délibérative, mais la majorité accepte le paragraphe sans changement.

Art. 118. Il est décidé à l'unanimité que le Conseil d'Administration se réunira trois fois par semaine.

Art. 139. Il est décidé à l'unanimité d'élider le mot "Collectionneur des Dîmes et Taxes."

Art. 145. Le Métropolitain Effendi, Stéphan Effendi, Christaki Effendi proposent aussi ici que Chef de la Section Financière et les employés de la Correspondance ne soient pas membres de droit de leur poste, tandis que la majorité accepte l'Article sans ce changement proposé.

Art. 148. Il fut décidé à l'unanimité que les Secrétaires des communautés religieuses (non-Musulmanes) seront aussi membres des Conseils de ces communautés.

Art. 150 fut accepté en principe, seulement la majorité proposa que le Mufti* Effendi et les Chefs des communautés religieuses auront le devoir de surveiller la gestion et l'argent des orphelins. Arif Bey, Salih Bey, et Ali Effendi proposent d'accepter ces Articles

* Procureur du Tribunal Religieux.

sans changement; le Métropolitain Effendi et le Mustéchar Pacha proposent: "attendu que les affaires concernant les églises et cimetières concernent les Chefs des communautés religieuses (non-Musulmanes) devront être élidés du Tableau contenant les affaires du Conseil de la communauté." Mais la majorité n'y adhère pas.

Art. 153. Arif Bey propose que les Chefs des Municipalités soient choisis par le Conseil Permanent parmi les membres élus et qu'ils soient nommés par le Vali. Ibrahim Bey, Salih Bey, Abdi Effendi, Anis Effendi, Ali Effendi proposent d'accepter l'Article sans changement, et la majorité décide qu'ils soient élus du nombre des membres élus et qu'ils seront nommés et installés par le Vali.

Art. 159. Le Métropolitain Effendi et Arif Bey proposent de conserver le mot "octroi;" la majorité décide d'accepter le mot "rusum-i-beledié ("octrois communales"), comme le mot "duhulié," accepté dans la première lecture, ne suffit pas.

Art. 160. Arif Bey propose que les Chefs des Municipalités seront obligés d'exécuter les ordres qui leur parviendront de la part des employés du Gouvernement si ces ordres sont conformes aux devoirs et à la sphère respectif. La majorité accepte le maintien de l'Article sans changement.

Art. 162. Il fut décidé à l'unanimité que l'officier de police dont il est parlé ici se trouve au lieu où se trouve le Mudir et sous ses ordres.

Art. 163. La majorité décide que le Mudir et son adjoint seront choisis comme les membres pour une période de deux ans; le Métropolitain, Effendi et Salih Bey, veulent que cette période ne comprenne qu'une seule année.

Art. 164. Cet Article doit être changé d'après le contenu d'autres Articles, où il est dit que les Mukhtars rassembleront les dîmes et que les bénéfices qui étaient réservées aux Collectionneurs des Dîmes reviendront aux Mukhtars.

Art. 168. Comme le mot "Collectionneur des Taxes et Dîmes," veut dire Mukhtar, le contenu de cet Article doit être aussi changé d'après cette décision.

Art. 170. Le nombre des membres qui fut fixé à la première lecture de six à douze, sera porté à ce nombre d'après les exigences des affaires.

Dix-huitième Séance.

Le 3 Février, 1295 (15 Février, 1880), sous la présidence du Président et en présence de tous les membres, excepté d'Arif, Dramali, Aguiah Beys, Abdi, Samuel, et Bohor Effendis.

Art. 184. Le Métropolitan Effendi propose que les affaires concernant les biens des orphelins soient reglées avec le concours du Mufti Effendi et des Chefs des communautés religieuses (non-Musulmanes), mais la majorité accepte l'Article sans changement.

Art. 229. Il est décidé à l'unanimité: "Attendu qu'il est bien difficile et joint avec beaucoup de dépenses pour les habitants de recourir au Tribunal de Troisième Instance à Constantinople pour les affaires qui avaient été décidées en Première et Deuxième Instance dans les vilayets, il est de la plus haute importance d'avoir au chef-lieu du vilayet un tel Tribunal dont le Président sera nommé par le Ministère de la Justice et institué par Iradé Impérint, et dont les membres seront choisis d'après les règles existantes par les habitants et confirmés par le Ministère de la Justice, et qui décidera des affaires civiles, décidées antérieurement par les Tribunaux de Première Instance, dans les cazas et sandjaks, par les Tribunaux de Première et Deuxième Instance, dans les sandjaks et vilayets; par les Tribunaux Commerciaux de Première Instance qui se trouvent dans les vilayets, et par les Tribunaux Commerciaux de Deuxième Instance au chef-lieu du vilayet. Seulement les affaires qui avaient été décidées en Deuxième Instance par ce Tribunal seraient appelable au Tribunal Supérieur de Constantinople.

Art. 250. Il est décidé à l'unanimité que les Mudirs seront nommés par les Mutessarifs et que ce choix sera confirmé par les Conseils Administratifs des sandjaks.

Dix-neuvième Séance.

Le 5 Février, 1295 (17 Février, 1880), sous la présidence du Premier Président et en présence de tous les membres, excepté Arif et Dromali Aguiah Beys, Bohor, Samuel, et Christaki Effendis.

Art. 330. Il fut décidé que ces disputes et contestations seront rapportées par le Conseil Administratif du caza au Mutessarif, qui prendra les mesures nécessaires.

Art. 337 sera joint avec Article 228.

Art. 338. Il est décidé d'ajouter à la fin de cet Article les mots: "à condition que le droit de plaider serait entièrement conservé.

Art. 351. Il est décidé d'ajouter, "l'Assemblée Générale peut en cas de changer ces dispositions."

Art. 358. Il fut décidé qu'à la construction des chemins les paysans seront obligés de fournir des animaux et des mains de travail, et que le nombre des animaux et mains sera fixé pour chaque village et qu'ils seront payés pour cela de la part de l'Ingénieur de l'Evkaf.

Art. 362. Si les enfants qui se trouvent dans les écoles pour étudier seraient dans l'âge qui les obligent à concourir dans la construction des chemins, &c., ils en seront exceptés.

Vingtième Séance.

Le $\frac{12}{24}$ Février, 1880, sous la Présidence du Premier Président, et en présence de tous les membres du Mustéchar Pacha, Arif et Aguiah Beys, Ali et Joanidi Effendis.

Art. 369. Comme ce Statut sera appliqué et valable dans les vilayets de la Turquie d'Europe, on décide de mettre au lieu des mots "dans la loi sur l'administration des vilayets" les mots "dans cette loi."

Art. 371. Comme les sommes pour ces affaires sont séparées de la Caisse commune, il est décidé de dire "de la Caisse spéciale et séparée."

Art. 376. Comme on a disposé de l'affaire dont il est parlé dans cet Article, on décide d'éliminer tout-à-fait cet Article.

Art. 386. Il fut décidé qu'il serait favorable pour une bonne gestion des affaires que les Ingénieurs soient placés sous l'autorité des Valis et des Directeurs pour les travaux publics, et qu'ils présenteront leurs propositions au Vali par l'intermédiaire du Directeur des Travaux Publics.

Art. 390. Il fut décidé de dire au lieu de "Caisse," "Caisse de ces revenus spéciaux."

Art. 402. Comme on prendra des Ingénieurs ou un garant ou un cautionnement, on décide d'omettre la phrase qui parle de l'attestation donnée par le Premier Ingénieur aux Ingénieurs, parce que ce pourrait causer des abus.

Art. 409. Il est décidé d'ajouter: "en cas de besoin l'Assemblée Générale aura le droit de suspendre ou de changer les dispositions qui sont faites dans cette partie et dans ce Chapitre.

Art. 428. Il est ajouté "excepté les instruments."

No. 412.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 20.*)

(No. 49.) *Buyukdéré, July* 11, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the Mazbata of the Local Commission of Adrianople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 412.

Projet de Lois sur l'Organisation des Vilayets de la Turquie d'Europe, publié par la Sublime Porte.	*Modifications votées par la Commission d'Andrinople.*
CHAPITRE Ier.	
Art. 13. ON peut exproprier un particulier dans l'intérêt général en lui payant une somme convenable à titre de contrevaleur de sa propriété.	CETTE direction étant vague et indéfinie, il faut ajouter à cet Article: "Dans le cas que l'expropriation fût jugée indispensable dans l'intérêt public, on peut décréter l'expropriation en payant comptant la véritable valeur de la propriété."
CHAPITRE II.	
Art. 27. Pendant son absence le Vali peut confier ses pouvoirs à un des fonctionnaires du vilayet a son choix.	Puisque dans l'ordre Hiérarchique le Mustéchar vient immédiatement après le Vali, c'est lui qui doit remplacer ce

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	dernier pendant son absence et non pas un fonctionnaire quelconque. Si le Vali n'a pas de confiance dans son Mustéchar, c'est au Gouvernement de ne pas nommer à des places si importantes des hommes incapables. La Commission propose: "Dans l'absence du Vali c'est le Mustéchar qui le remplace."
CHAPITRE II.	
Art. 34. Si les fonctionnaires qui relèvent directement des postes, des télégraphes, inscription, douane, &c., se rendent coupables de quelques irrégularités, de malversation ou d'autres délits, le Vali doit en référer à leurs supérieurs spéciaux à Constantinople.	La Commission observe que quoique cette classe d'employés relève directement des Ministères et Départements spéciaux de la capitale pour ce qui a trait à la gestion de leurs affaires de service, ils ne peuvent être considérés comme indépendants et en dehors de l'action et de la surveillance du Vali, car eux aussi sont, à l'instar de toutes les autres branches de l'Administration du même vilayet, confiés au Vali, et doivent par conséquent être soumis à la surveillance de la haute autorité du Vali. La Commission demande qu'il soit dit: "Si ces fonctionnaires se conduisent mal, ou si on porte des plaintes contre eux, le Vali ordonne, comme pour tous autres fonctionnaires, leur mise en jugement, leur fait faire le procès et communique la décision légale à leurs Départements respectifs."
CHAPITRE II.—(*Suite de l'Article* 34.)	
Le Vali peut dans le cas prévu par la loi destituer directement certains fonctionnaires et demander à la Sublime Porte destitation d'autres; il peut selon l'Article de la loi donner l'ordre pour la mise en jugement des fonctionnaires coupables.	La Commission fait observer qu'il n'est pas convenable de révoquer immédiatement et sans des motifs sérieux et d'ordre public, un fonctionnaire supposé coupable; il faut au contraire le mettre, sans distinction de rang ni de position, en état d'accusation et en saisir les Tribunaux et les autorités compétentes, de manière que l'avenir des fonctionnaires ne puisse être brisé sur des soupçons, ou par le caprice des supérieurs. Si la culpabilité ou l'inaptitude du fonctionnaire sont légalement et dûment constatées, alors non-seulement qu'il doit subir la peine édictée par les lois, mais son nom doit être rangé de la liste des fonctionnaires sans qu'il lui soit permis d'occuper aucune place au service du Gouvernement. La Commission propose l'amendement suivant: "Le Vali non-seulement qu'il pourra ordonner la mise en jugement d'un fonctionnaire prévenu de crime, mais après la constatation légale du crime, il s'empressera d'informer la Sublime Porte tout en faisant subir au coupable la peine édictée par la loi."

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CHAPITRE III.

Art. 52 (9). Les Defterdars dirigent et règlent les dépenses du vilayet.

CHAPITRE III.

Art. 60. Les Contrôleurs des Finances sont de droit membres du Conseil Général de la province.

CHAPITRE III.

Art. 55. Attributions des Directeurs de la Justice.

Modifications, &c.

Comme les dépenses du vilayet sont fixées et limitées dans le budget, elles ne peuvent être réglées que d'après le budget par ordre du Vali, et à la suite des décisions prises par le Conseil du vilayet; par conséquent, le Defterdar n'a rien ni à régler ni à ordonnancer de son chef.

La Commission propose la diction suivante: "Le Defterdar réglera les dépenses du vilayet en se référant au Vali et d'après les ordres qu'il en aura reçu."

Les Contrôleurs des Finances dépendent, selon la loi, des Defterdars, qui à leur tour sont responsables envers le Trésor Impérial. Or, comme le Conseil Général du vilayet est autorisé à demander compte de la gestion de tous les fonctionnaires et les appeler à justifier leurs actes, le droit pour le Contrôleur des Finances de faire partie du Conseil Général, n'a aucune raison d'être. La Commission opine pour l'abrogation de cet Article du Projet de Loi.

La Commission approuve les attributions assignées aux Directeurs de la Justice par le Projet de Loi, mais elle trouve nécessaire d'y ajouter en outre les attributions suivantes:—

"1. De soigner l'état des prisons;

"2. De publier dans les journaux du vilayet, les lois et les règlements concernant les Tribunaux;

"3. De communiquer aux Présidents des Tribunaux et autres Magistrats les ordres qu'il reçoit du Ministère de la Justice;

"4. De vérifier et constater la régularité de la perception des droits et des taxes prélevés par les Tribunaux et passés dans les registres mensuels;

"5. De surveiller le paiement des appointements alloués, conformément au budget, aux employés des Tribunaux, ainsi que les dépenses réglementaires;

"6. De remettre au Ministère de la Justice les mazbatas approuvant l'élection fait par les Tribunaux des Juges suppléants et de choisir les autres employés dont l'élection n'est pas du ressort des Tribunaux.

"7. De surveiller les actes de l'autorité exécutive des Tribunaux et l'exécution régulière des sentences, ainsi que de révoquer et remplacer ceux des employés, chargés d'exécuter les sentences, qui ne feront pas ponctuellement leur devoir."

Projet de Lois, &c

CHAPITRE III.

Art. 57. Attributions et devoirs des Mehtoubdjis.

Art. 58. Attributions des Directeurs du Commerce, Agriculture, et Travaux Publics, réunis ensemble et dirigés par un seul Directeur.

Modifications, &c.

La Commission approuve l'Article 57 concernant les attributions des Mektoubdjis, mais elle désire que l'addition suivante y soit faite:

"Le Mektoubdji est responsable de la non-exécution des devoirs énoncés dans cet Article, ainsi que de toutes lettres, dépêches et instructions, ordonnées par le Vali qui ne seraient pas conformes aux brouillons paraphés, et pour le retard que subirait l'expédition des écritures en général."

La Commission est d'avis que ces trois branches de l'Administration ne peuvent pas être convenablement dirigées par un seul et même fonctionnaire. Elle émet l'opinion que les Travaux Publics doivent être séparés du Commerce et de l'Agriculture, qui sont la véritable source de la richesse du pays, et confiés à un fonctionnaire spécialiste, de la même manière que les deux Ministères sont distincts et séparés à Constantinople. En appliquant à quelques exceptions près, les prescriptions de l'Article 58 aux fonctions du Directeur des Travaux Publics, la Commission voudrait que les fonctions inhérentes à la Direction du Commerce et de l'Agriculture fussent définies de la manière suivante:—

"1. Le Directeur du Commerce et de l'Agriculture est placé directement sous les ordres du Vali; il doit, à l'instar des autres Chefs de service, être responsable envers le Conseil Général de la province;

"2. Il doit trouver les moyens d'établir dans le vilayet des banques agricoles et surveiller les rapports de ces banques avec les populations rurales;

"3. Vérifier les impôts qui pèsent sur les populations agricoles, et dès qu'il aura constaté qu'une commune ou un village en est surchargé au delà de ses forces et des proportions légales, ils doit en demander la rectification au Conseil Général de la province;

"4. Il doit dresser une statistique exacte des produits agricoles pour une période de cinq ans et vérifier les causes de l'augmentation ou de la diminution de ces produits, étudier les moyens d'améliorer l'agriculture, en faire un Rapport détaillé, dont il présentera au Conseil Général une copie conjointement à la statistique, et il remettra en même temps des copies authentiques au Vali pour qu'elles soient transmises au Ministère du Commerce et de l'Agriculture;

"5. Il organisera des secours et des subsides pour venir en aide dans des cas de désastre aux populations agricoles, et

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surveiller que ces secours soient appliqués rationnellement et équitablement;

"6. Il dressera une liste générale des terres du vilayet en indiquant la quantité, la qualité, et la valeur;

"7. Il établira une école d'agriculture pour le vilayet en simplifiant et en conformant les études et l'application à la nature du sol et aux besoins réels et pratiques du pays;

"8. Il établira dans chaque sandjak une ferme modèle et il aviscra aux moyens de créer des bois en faisant planter d'arbres dans chaque commune;

"9. Il fera connaître aux agriculteurs les propriétés de leurs terres et la préférence à donner à la semaille qui est plus productive et qui rend le plus;

"10. Toutes les fois qu'il croira nécessaire de prendre quelque mesure dans l'intérêt de l'agriculture et du commerce, il fera un rapport au Vali;

"11. Il fera au moins deux fois par an des tournées d'inspection dans toutes les parties du vilayet;

"12. Il donnera chaque année une statistique du mouvement commercial du vilayet et de l'entrée et sortie des produits;

"13. Il se mettra d'accord avec les Directeurs des Travaux Publics pour proposer toutes constructions ayant directement relation avec le progrès du commerce et de l'agriculture;

"14. Dans des cas qui ne sont pas prévus dans les décisions prises par le Conseil Général, mais dont l'urgence et l'application de certaines mesures auront été sanctionnées par le Vali, le Directeur du Commerce et de l'Agriculture en doit prévenir la Commission Permanente afin qu'elle puisse surveiller la mise à exécution de ces mêmes mesures;

"15. Il est tenu de remettre à la Commission Permanente, pour être soumis au Conseil Général, tous documents et pièces concernant le commerce et l'agriculture qu'elle pourrait requérir et de lui donner verbalement toutes les explications qu'elle demandera."

CHAPITRE IV.

Art. 95. Conseil Général du vilayet.

La Commission approuve tout ce qui a trait aux attributions et aux pouvoirs du Conseil Général de la Province, mais elle propose l'appendice suivant:—

"Le Conseil Général et la Commission Permanente non-seulement qu'ils ont le droit d'interpeller les Directeurs qui leur auront soumis leurs Rapports, sur la gestion de leurs Départements respectifs, mais aussi lorsqu'ils le croiront nécessaire, ils auront le droit de faire comparaître devant eux des fonctionnaires de Finance et tous employés du vilayet pour leur demander des informations et des explications."

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CHAPITRE VII.

Art. 108. Mutessarif des Sandjaks.

La Commission, vu l'état des finances de l'Empire, ne croit pas nécessaire que dans les chefs-lieux du vilayet il y ait, au moins pour le moment, un Mutessarif à l'instar des autres Sandjaks. Dans les chefs-lieux du vilayet, outre le Vali, il y a le Mustéchar ainsi que les Directeurs des Départements; il est facile par conséquent d'administrer comme on le fait actuellement le sandjak chef-lieu du vilayet, sans ouvrir la voie à des nouvelles dépenses. Un Mutessarif dans le chef-lieu du vilayet ne ferait—et cela est prouvé par l'expérience que l'on a faite—que créer des difficultés et retarder la marche régulière des affaires.

CHAPITRE VII.

Art. 111. Les Mutessarifs peuvent pendant leur absence déléguer leurs pouvoirs à un fonctionnaire de leur choix.

Les Mutessarifs et les Caïmacams ayant chacun *ad latere* un Mouavin ("Assistant") de la même manière que le Vali a un Mustéchar, ce sont les Mouavins qui doivent remplacer les Mutessarifs et les Caïmacams, de la même manière que c'est le Mustéchar qui doit, par droit hiérarchique, remplacer le Vali pendant leur absence.

CHAPITRE VII.—2e *Partie.*

Art. 116. (Tableau 2-C). Les Mutessarifs peuvent faire des Règlements à l'égard des ports, foires, et autres endroits publics.

La Commission n'est pas d'avis d'accorder aux Mutessarifs le droit de faire des lois et des Règlements, d'abord, parce que cela n'est pas conforme aux règles, et ensuite parce qu'un Mutessarif qui fait un Règlement de son chef donne le droit au Mutessarif qui le succède d'en faire autant, ou de modifier le premier, et ainsi de suite; alors il n'y aurait que des Règlements et modifications contradictoires qui engendreraient la confusion et le désordre.

La Commission repousse complètement le dispositif de cet Article; elle croit que dans le Projet de Loi, au lieu de dire "instructions" on a écrit par erreur "Règlements," et elle demande que cette erreur soit rectifiée.

CHAPITRE VII.—4e Partie.

Art. 116. (Tableau 4 D). Les Mutessarifs ont le droit de réglementer ce qui n'est pas prévu par les Règlements existants et de modifier selon les besoins les Règlements en vigueur.

La Commission croit que cet Article est entaché de la même erreur que l'Article précédent, qui donne au Mutessarif le droit de faire des Règlements. Aussi elle demande qu'il soit substitué au dispositif de cet Article la diction suivante:—

"Les Mutessarifs n'ont le droit de faire de leur chef des lois ni des Règlements, ni même de modifier les Règlements

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existants ; mais toutes les fois que la nécessité de la modification d'un Règlement se fera sentir, ils sont tenus d'en référer au Vali par un rapport motivé."

CHAPITRE VII.

Art. 117. Le Conseil d'Administration du Sandjak, chef-lieu du vilayet, sera présidé par le Mutessarif comme dans les autres Sandjaks.

La Commission ayant dans l'Article 108 émis l'opinion sur l'inutilité, vu les circonstances actuelles, d'un surcroît de dépenses qu'entraînerait la création du Mutessarif et des autres fonctionnaires dans le sandjak, chef-lieu du vilayet, elle insiste sur son avis, et puisque les fonctionnaires du vilayet, résidant dans le chef-lieu, sont plus que suffisants pour administrer le sandjak, la Commission trouve convenable que pour ce qui a trait aux affaires du sandjak, chef-lieu du vilayet, on pourrait ajouter au Conseil d'Administration du vilayet les nombres Réglementaires de membres élus par la population, lesquels membres siégeraient les jours fixés dans le Conseil Administratif pour régler exclusivement les affaires du sandjak, chef-lieu du vilayet.

CHAPITRE VIII.

Arts. 128-131. Attributions des Conseils d'Administration.

La Commission approuve en général les attributions confiées aux Conseils Administratifs par ces deux Articles du Projet Gouvernemental. Seulement elle trouve nécessaire que dans les affaires qui seront soumises aux délibérations des Conseils d'Administration, le Secrétaire de ce Conseil tienne régulièrement le procès-verbal de chaque séance et qu'il soit tenu de transcrire dans les procès-verbaux, mot à mot, toutes les observations faites soit par le Président, soit par les autres membres, et que ces procès-verbaux soient signés par tous les membres présents. Et dans le cas qu'il surgit une discussion sur l'inscription dans le procès-verbal de l'opinion émise par un ou plusieurs membres, le Conseil doit immédiatement réexaminer l'affaire, donner des explications pour convaincre les dissidents, et faire rectifier, séance tenante, les erreurs et les irrégularités ; ces procès-verbaux seront à la fin de l'année remis au Conseil d'Administration du Vilayet, afin que, s'il y a lieu, on puisse les soumettre à l'examen du Conseil Général de la Province. A l'Article 131, où il est dit que "si le Conseil Général trouve que les membres des Conseils Administratifs ou les fonctionnaires ont agi contrairement aux lois de l'Empire, ou qu'ils ont commis des abus ou des oppressions, il peut partiellement ou tous ensemble en référer au Ministère de l'Intérieur," la Commission voudrait et opine pour cette modification : "Il doit en référer au Vali, et dans le cas où le Vali

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n'y ferait droit, le Conseil Général de la Province est autorisé à en référer directement au Ministère de l'Intérieur."

CHAPITRE VIII.

Article spécial. Les Mutessarifs sont responsables de leurs actes.

La Commission demande qu'au dispositif de cet Article on ajoute le paragraphe additionnel suivant :—

"De même que les Mutessarifs sont responsables de tous leurs actes ils doivent de même être tenus responsables de la non-exécution des devoirs que la loi leur a tracés ; et de même que les Valis doivent une ou deux fois par an faire le tour de la province pour en inspecter l'état et la situation, de même les Mutessarifs doivent une ou deux fois par an faire le tour de leur sandjak pour constater l'état du pays et de la population ainsi que la conduite des fonctionnaires sous leurs ordres, et les besoins des améliorations réclamées par le pays, afin de pouvoir se mettre en état de présenter au Vali un Rapport détaillé et motivé."

CHAPITRE VIII.

Art. 137. Le maintien de l'ordre public dans les cazas est confié aux Caïmacams qui peuvent juger de l'opportunité des mesures exceptionnelles à prendre pour garantir la tranquillité publique et que le cas se présentant, ils ont le droit, tout en rapportant le fait au Mutessarif, de demander le concours de la force armée soit du Commandant de la gendarmerie soit du commandant de la réserve (rédif).

Comme bien souvent il arrive que dans leur frayeur les Caïmacams pourraient envisager un petit incident comme un événement très-sérieux et partant, en déployant des forces extraordinaires et surtout en faisant appel à la réserve de l'armée Impériale, ils pourraient jeter le trouble et la panique dans l'esprit des populations et donner lieu à des fâcheux événements ; et comme d'autre part chaque canton administratif n'est pas un centre de troupes de réserve et qu'en pareil cas on ne pourrait s'adresser qu'à l'endroit où se trouvent établis les dépots des rédifs ; la Commission est d'avis que les Caïmacams dans des pareils cas doivent se borner à la réunion de la force de la gendarmerie du canton et d'en référer au Mutessarif lorsque ces forces ne suffiraient pas. Aussi la Commission croit qu'il est utile de modifier le dispositif de l'Article 137 comme suit :—

"Dans le cas d'un événement exceptionnel et pressant, il est permis au Caïmacam de réunir la gendarmerie du canton et de l'expédier dans les lieux où la présence de la force armée est nécessaire, et dans le cas où cette force fût trouvée insuffisante, il doit en référer par télégraphe au Mutessarif et agir d'après les ordres qu'il en aura reçus."

CHAPITRE VIII.

Arts. 11, 12, 13, and 14. Attributions et devoirs des Caïmacams.

En désignant les fonctions des Caïmacams, l'Article 11 contient un passage sur les fondations pieuses et les biens alloués à la bienfaisance publique. Il est dit :—

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"L'établissement du budget et le Réglement des comptes concernant ces biens sont du ressort des Caïmacams."

Dans l'Article 12 il y est ajouté que l'administration de ces biens appartient également aux Caïmacams; et dans l'Article 13 et 14 il est dit, que le réglement du service intérieur et le droit d'accepter des dons pieux jusqu'à la concurrence de £ T. 100, pourvu que la famille du donataire n'y mette opposition, appartient également aux Caïmacams.

Mais comme le droit d'administrer ces sortes de biens est déjà accordé aux Conseils des Communautés et aux Conseils Municipaux, il est évident que si par les l'Articles 11, 12, 13, et 14, on a voulu seulement indiquer que les Caïmacams pouvaient exercer une simple surveillance sur l'administration de ces biens et non pas avoir le droit de les administrer eux-mêmes, il faut absolument que ces quatre Articles soient modifiés dans ce sens, et c'est ce que la Commission demande.

CHAPITRE XI.

Art. 166. Les Moudirs et les Mouavins qui se rendraient coupables d'un délit ou d'un crime, les contraventions prévues par une amende pécuniaire étant exceptées, doivent être destitués sur la plainte du Caïmacam par les Mutessarifs, après que les Caïmacams auront vérifié et constaté les faits dont ils sont accusés.

Il arrive souvent que les Caïmacams, par animosité personnelle, portent des plaintes contre leurs subalternes et il n'est pas juste que ceux-ci soient destitués sans un Jugement préalable, car on ne doit pas destituer un employé sans qu'il se soit rendu coupable. Par conséquent la Commission propose cette version:

"A la suite d'une plainte portée par les Caïmacams contre leurs subalternes, cette plainte et les pièces à l'appui doivent être remises d'abord au Conseil d'Administration du Sandjak, qui, après mûr examen, manderait le coupable au chef-lieu du sandjak pour être jugé conformément aux lois."

CHAPITRE XI.

Arts. 184-186. Les Caïmacams doivent faire encaisser les impôts et le Bédélat-Askerié (rachat du service militaire), et qu'ils seront tenus responsables s'ils n'auront pas fait rentrer en temps utile dans les Caisses de l'Etat les impôts; ils doivent, d'accord avec le préposé du fisc, dresser la liste des Contributions Directes, les publier, et par l'intermédiaire des Mouktars du village, conformément à la décision du Conseil des Anciens (de la Commune), ils doivent ramasser les impôts et les remettre à la Caisse du Gouvernement.

La charge donnée jusqu'à present aux Mouktars, d'encaisser les impôts de la commune, a produit, comme il est prouvé par l'expérience, toujours et partout les pires résultats.

Les Mouktars ne sachant la plupart ni lire ni écrire, en encaissant l'argent, souvent ils en laissaient à leur profit paraître comme débiteurs les villageois qui ont déjà payé; outre l'impôt légal, ils faisaient partout payer le 5, le 10 pour cent en faveur et comme indemnité dûe au poste de Mouktar, et l'autorité n'ayant jamais prêté attention aux plaintes des populations, il s'en est suivi que les Mouktars avaient tellement abusé de leur position, qu'outre le paiement sus-indiqué qu'ils imposaient aux contribuables, ils ajou-

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taient, au fur et à mesure que leur impunité se consolidait, d'autres sommes à payer de "Cara Masraf" (dépenses noires, c'est-à-dire forcées, oppressives) qui étaient beaucoup plus considérables que celles de l'impôt légal, et le peuple payait. Il n'est pas besoin de dire qu'en dehors de l'impôt légal, la clémence et la justice de sa Majesté le Sultan ne consentent pas que des populations soient aggravées d'autres impôts arbitraires. Par conséquent, la Commission est d'avis que l'encaissement des impôts doit être fait directement des contribuables par les Percepteurs choisis par le Conseil Général de la Province et munis d'un "Bougourouldi" du Vali; et c'est ainsi seulement qu'on fera cesser tous les inconvénients éconés qui devaient leur origine à la rapacité des Mouktars ne sachant ni lire ni écrire, ni tenir les comptes. Ce système de faire percevoir les impôts directement par les percepteurs élus par la population et salariés ayant été adopté dans le Vilayet d'Adrinople à la satisfaction de tout le monde et à l'avantage du fisc ainsi que des populations, la Commission est d'opinion que ce système établi sur des bases solides et régulières doit être adopté généralement et maintenu particulièrement ici, où ses bons résultats ont été déjà constatés.

CHAPITRE XI.

Art. 219. Les listes électorales des cantons doivent être réunies et remises au Conseil Municipal ainsi qu'au Medjliss Temiz, et ces deux Conseils doivent se réunir pour en faire le dépouillement.

Comme les Medjliss Temiz ont été déjà abolis, la Commission pense qu'ils doivent être remplacés par les Tribunaux de Première Instance. Elle croit, en outre, qu'au lieu de dire que les rapports contenant les noms des élus et leurs cachets officiels doivent être remis au chef-lieu du caza, il serait plus rationnel et plus convenable de dire, seront remis au Vali du vilayet.

CHAPITRE XIV.

Art. 222. Dans cet Article qui a trait à l'institution des Tribunaux Civils de Première Instance dans les cazas et dans les sandjaks, d'une Cour d'Appel dans le chef-lieu du vilayet, et selon les besoins d'un Tribunal de Commerce, il est dit que le témoignage, après avoir prêté serment, doit être reçu et admis sur le même pied d'égalité pour les Musulmans que pour les non-Musulmans.

Comme les lois en vigueur n'exigent pas dans beaucoup de cas le serment des témoins, la Commission est d'avis qu'à la phrase sus-énoncée on doive substituer celle-ci: "prêteront serment dans le cas prescrit par les lois."

CHAPITRE XIV.

Arts. 230-231. Les Juges, à la condition qu'ils soient versés dans la science légale, seront inamovibles, et pour assurer la bonne marche et la régularité de la justice,

Il est juste que les Magistrats soient indépendants, et qu'il y ait un Inspecteur des Tribunaux. Mais jusqu'à ce que nous ayons des véritables Ecoles de Droit et que

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il y aura dans chaque vilayet un Inspecteur des Tribunaux qui en fera la tournée.

Les autorités Administratives ne pourront, sous quelque prétexte que ce soit, se mêler des affaires de la justice, seulement si dans l'installation des Tribunaux, aussi dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions, on remarquera quelque chose d'insuffisant ou quelque erreur ou écart, les Caïmacams peuvent les signaler aux Mutessarifs, les Mutessarifs au Vali, et le Vali doit en faire rapport au Ministère de la Justice.

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ces écoles nous fournissent le nombre nécessaire de bons Juges, nous sommes obligés, surtout dans les Tribunaux de province, de confier les fonctions de Président et de Juge à des gens pris çà et là, ou à des fonctionnaires supposés possesseurs de quelques notions superficielles de jurisprudence, mais appartenant à d'autres branches de l'Administration, ou enfin à des Notables du pays. En présence d'un tel état de choses, la Commission opine et est d'avis que les agissements et l'exercice des fonctions confiées à de telles personnes, doivent être surveillés avec une attention sérieuse et continuelle, et que si parmi elles il y a des gens incapables à remplir leur devoir ou s'ils tiennent une conduite inconciliable avec le caractère d'un Magistrat, ceux-ci, le cas constaté, doivent au contraire être immédiatement révoqués. Pour empêcher les maux que nous avons eu à subir jusqu'à présent, c'est-à dire la négligence dans l'instruction et le jugement des procès civils et criminels, les pertes de temps et d'autres espèces d'abus de la part des Juges, la Commission pense et est d'avis que le droit d'inamovibilité doit être soumis à des conditions restrictives. Si les plaintes sont portées contre les Juges ou autres employés des Tribunaux, au lieu de saisir de ces plaintes un autre Tribunal, ce qui obligerait le plaignant à un déplacement onéreux, souvent impossible, et le mettrait dans la nécessité de se retirer et de renoncer à sa plainte, la Commission voudrait que la loi accordât aux Inspecteurs des Tribunaux le droit de vérifier, d'examiner, et de statuer sur ces plaintes sur les lieux mêmes où elles seraient produites.

La Commission trouve opportun et nécessaire d'ajouter à la loi concernant les Tribunaux les Articles suivants:

"Seront inamovibles, selon la loi, tous les Magistrats nommés par le Gouvernement licenciés en droit et connaissant les lois, mais;

"1. Ceux qui auront subi une condamnation pour crime ou pour délit;

"2. Ceux qui pour des choses honteuses ont subi l'emprisonnement;

"3. Ceux qui sans motif justifié auront manqué pendant trois fois consécutives de siéger à leur poste;

"4. Ceux qui tiendront une conduite incompatible avec les fonctions et le caractère de Magistrat ou qui se constitueront fondés de pouvoir des parties adversaires ou qui se permettent de donner des conseils au prévenu; et

"5. Tous ceux qui jusqu'à ce que nous aurons des véritables licenciés en droit

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sortant des écoles, ont été employés malgré qu'ils n'eussent pas les titres nécessaires et dont l'incapacité serait constatée par la Cour de Cassation, peuvent être révoqués de leurs fonctions de Juge."

De même que dans chaque vilayet il y a un Inspecteur des Tribunaux, que de même dans chaque Cour d'Appel il y ait un Procureur-Général et un substitut du Procureur dans chaque Tribunal de Première Instance.

L'Inspecteur des Tribunaux du vilayet, outre les attributions que la présente loi lui accorde, doit avoir aussi la charge d'examiner la conduite et la capacité des Juges, et dans le cas où la révocation d'un Juge devienne nécessaire, qu'il puisse collectivement avec le Vali la demander d'office au Ministère de la Justice.

Les Inspecteurs des Tribunaux qui, dans leur tournée d'inspection, auront découvert des abus ou autres faits répréhensibles à la charge des Juges, ou qui auront vu que ceux-ci ne se sont pas conformés aux ordres que le Ministère de la Justice leur a fait donner par l'intermédiaire des Inspecteurs dans de cas pareils, les Inspecteurs des Tribunaux pourront, après avoir référé et obtenu l'autorisation du Ministère de la Justice, infliger pour deux fois des reprimandes et révoquer à la troisième faute ou transgression ses fonctionnaires coupables. Si dans ses tournées d'inspection, l'Inspecteur trouve qu'un Magistrat a commis, dans l'exercice de ses fonctions, un acte méritant une punition, il doit le traduire, lui-même, ou le faire traduire, par un de ses substituts, par devant les Tribunaux compétents pour y être jugé; il communiquera pour écrit au Procureur-Général le résultat du Jugement et en référera en même temps au Ministère de la Justice.

Si dans ses tournées d'inspection l'Inspecteur des Tribunaux reçoit des plaintes contre les agissements des Juges, il doit immédiatement instituer une Commission composée du substitut du Procureur-Général et de deux Assesseurs pris en dehors des personnes ayant des rapports avec le Juge accusé, laquelle Commission fera une enquête minutieuse, et dans le cas où l'accusation serait fondée et justifiée par les résultats de cette enquête, il doit saisir des poursuites et du Jugement du coupable le substitut du Procureur-Général du même Tribunal et faire communiquer le procès-verbal soit au plaignant, soit au Juge accusé. Si l'accusé est un simple employé du Tribunal et non pas un Juge, il doit être traduit par devant le Tribunal et jugé en présence de l'In-

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specteur qui aura reçu la plainte contre lui. Si la sentence du Tribunal lui paraît injuste, il a le droit (le coupable) de se pourvoir en Cassation à Constantinople.

Si les autorités Administratives ou celles de la force publique se mêlent des affaires judiciaires, ou s'il est prouvé qu'elles exercent une influence coupable sur la conscience des Juges, en ce cas l'Inspecteur en référera au Vali qui ordonnera la mise en Jugement de celui des fonctionnaires qui se serait rendu coupable d'une pareille immixtion.

L'Inspecteur des Tribunaux dressera à la fin de chaque année un Rapport général sur l'état et le fonctionnement des Tribunaux, ainsi que sur les applications des peines légales prononcées par eux; il en remettra une copie au Ministère de la Justice et une au Vali du vilayet.

CHAPITRE XVI.

Art. 249. Les fonctionnaires pourront être révoqués si le Gouvernement a des motifs graves pour le faire, &c.

Comme dans le Chapitre II, Article 34, il est dit d'une manière absolue que les fonctionnaires ne peuvent être révoqués qu'à la suite d'un Jugement; ces deux Articles du Projet de Loi semblent à la Commission contradictoires, par conséquent elle demande que cette phrase soit enlevée ou corrigée de manière qu'il n'y ait pas de contradiction.

CHAPITRE XVII.—*Matière Spéciale.*

Arts. 251-252. Les employés dont la nomination est du ressort du vilayet ne pourront être admis au service qu'après avoir été reconnus capables et aptes par le Comité d'Election.

La Commission accepte ce dispositif, mais elle propose qu'il y soit ajouté le complément suivant:

"Les employés actuels de cette catégorie subiront également l'examen par devant le Comité d'Election et seront, lors de l'application de cette nouvelle loi par le vilayet, soumis aux prescriptions contenues dans ces deux Articles."

CHAPITRE XVII.

Art. 250. Les Valis, les Mutessarifs, et les autres fonctionnaires du vilayet, sont nommés par Ordonnance Impériale.

Comme un Mutessarif, dont la capacité, l'honnêteté et les aptitudes sont connues par le Vali, inspire naturellement plus de confiance à ce dernier et lui assigne un concours plus efficace dans l'accomplissement de ses fonctions administratives, la Commission propose à cet Article l'addition suivante:

"Lorsque une place de Mutessarif se rendra vacante, le Vali proposera au Ministère de l'Intérieur trois candidats, et le Ministère fera le choix de celui qui doit être nommé.

"Si le Vali ne connaît pas des fonctionnaires capables et aptes pour une pareille place, et n'est pas en état de proposer les trois candidats, en ce cas ce doit être le Ministère de l'Intérieur qui lui

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enverra la liste des trois candidats en invitant le Vali de faire le choix de l'un qui doit être nommé par Firman Impérial.

"La même règle doit être suivie pour les Caïmacams, entre les Valis et les Mutessarifs."

CHAPITRE XVII.

Art. 256. Le Comité chargé de l'examen des employés du vilayet est composé du Defterdar, du Président de la Cour d'Appel, et du Mektoubdji.

Les employés de cette catégorie étant d'ordinaire des gens du pays, et les membres du Comité ne pouvant pas être en état de connaître à fond leurs caractères, leurs qualités, et leurs antécédents, la Commission propose la modification suivante:

"La Commission ou Comité d'Examen des employés qui doivent être nommés directement par le Vali, est composé du Defterdar, du Président de la Cour d'Appel, du Mektoubdji, et de trois membres de la Commission Permanente du Conseil Général de la Province."

CHAPITRE XVIII.

Lorsqu'il y aura des plaintes contre les employés relativement à l'exercice de leurs fonctions, c'est le Conseil d'Administration qui est saisi d'abord de l'affaire et qui, après un mûr examen, décide de la mise en accusation et envoie le prévenu par devant les Tribunaux.

L'expérience a déjà prouvé jusqu'à l'évidence, que les plaintes portées par devant le Conseil d'Administration sont toujours restées sans résultat, soit parce que ces Conseils faisaient toujours mauvais usage de leur autorité, soit parce qu'il n'était pas en état de procéder convenablement à l'examen et à la vérification des plaintes portées contre les fonctionnaires tant sur ce qui avait trait à l'exercice de leurs fonctions que sur d'autres chefs d'accusation. Ce manque déplorable de résultat est dû aussi aux causes suivantes:

1. Parce que les Conseils d'Administration en général n'ont ni la compétence, ni les qualités réquises pour procéder à l'interrogatoire ni aux vérifications sur des questions judiciaires;

2. Parce qu'ils ne sont pas en état de décider si un acte dont l'employé est accusé, est inhérent à l'exercice de ses fonctions ou appartenant au droit commun.

3. Parce que les Conseils d'Administration ne sont pas indépendant comme les Tribunaux et les membres dont ils sont composés, se trouvent toujours en rapports intimes avec la plupart des fonctionnaires. Or, d'après le dispositif de ce Chapitre, le Conseil d'Administration assigne les attributions d'une Chambre de Mise en Accusation et le cas échéant, envoie le prévenu par devant le Tribunal. Mais il n'est pas juste de remettre aux Tribunaux un employé accusé avant que l'on ait statué légalement s'il y a ou non lieu à sa mise en accusation, et comme d'ailleurs pour

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décider si le fait dont il est accusé a eu lieu, et quelle est la nature, et quel est le degré de punition que comporte légalement ce fait, et si le prévenu en est ou non responsable, il faut dûment examiner la chose et prononcer sa mise en accusation ou son acquittement, et vu que les Conseils d'Administration en se prononçant, peuvent acquitter un coupable qui ne serait soumis à un Jugement et peuvent par contre envoyer par devant les Tribunaux un innocent, il est évident que dans ce cas non-seulement il ne serait pas fait acte de bonne justice, mais on soumettrait le plaignant aussi à des interminables pertes de temps, à des comparutions continuelles dans les différents Bureaux et on leur occasionnerait d'autres plus graves dommages. Or, comme tous les vilayets, par les soins bienveillants de Sa Majesté le Sultan, ont à instituer des Chambres de Mise en Accusation et ont à adopter le système régulier d'instruction criminelle, il est fort naturel que dans le cas de plaintes contre les employés publics d'un caza, ce soit le Tribunal de Première Instance des cazas ; si contre les employés du sandjak, que ce soit le Tribunal de Première Instance du Sandjak, et si contre les fonctionnaires du vilayet, que ce soit également le Tribunal de Première Instance du Vilayet qui se constituent en Chambre de Mise en Accusation, reconnaissant de l'affaire, et que de cette manière les plaintes contre les employés du caza fussent portées directement aux Tribunaux du caza et ainsi de suite. Les plaintes à cet effet aux susdits Tribunaux seraient communiquées aux prévenus par l'intermédiaire de leurs supérieurs hiérarchiques qui les soumettraient à un interrogatoire et les inviteraient à répondre aux chefs d'accusation. Les procès-verbaux y relatifs et toutes les informations que ces supérieurs hiérarchiques pourraient se procurer, seront remis aux Tribunaux respectifs érigés en Chambres de Mise en Accusation, qui pourront, le cas échéant, mander les plaignants et les prévenus devant elles pour les interroger et mettre au clair l'affaire dont il s'agit, et la suite de ce que ces Tribunaux après déliberation décideront si les plaintes portent sur l'exercice des fonctions et dans le cas affirmatif ils remettent le prévenu au Tribunal Judiciaire, autrement ils prononcent de non recevoir et remettent l'affaire aux Tribunaux ordinaires, si la plainte a trait à des questions de droit commun. Dans le cas de mise en accusation d'un fonctionnaire par le Tribunal du caza fonctionnant comme Chambre de Mise en Accusation

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c'est par devant le Tribunal de Première Instance du Sandjak que ce fonctionnaire doit être jugé ; si c'est le Tribunal de Première Instance du Sandjak qui prononce la mise en accusation, c'est la Cour d'Appel qui est saisie du Jugement. S'il s'agit des fonctionnaires supérieurs comme Mutessarifs et autres hauts fonctionnaires du vilayet, alors ce sont les membres de la Commission Permanente du Conseil Général de la Province et les Juges du chef-lieu du vilayet, qui réunis ensemble forment la Chambre de Mise en Accusation, et si la mise en accusation est prononcée, c'est la Cour d'Appel du vilayet qui prononce le Jugement, et par devant laquelle le Procureur-Général présente son réquisitoire et demande la punition du coupable.

Si le Vali, les Mutessarifs, les Caïmacams ou les autres hauts fonctionnaires du vilayet s'aperçoivent qu'un de leurs subalternes a commis un acte punissable par les lois, ils doivent immédiatement prendre des informations, vérifier à la Chambre de Mise en Accusation en même temps qu'ils inviteront par écrit le Procureur-Général à procéder à la poursuite légale de l'affaire.

Selon le dispositif des lois à l'égard des Jugements des fonctionnaires ou employés, les sentences qui le concernent sont susceptibles d'appel. Mais aussitôt qu'une sentence définitive est donée contre un fonctionnaire ou un employé cette sentence sera immédiatement enregistrée dans le livre (matricule) des fonctionnaires, la pénalité prononcée lui sera appliquée et publiée dans les journaux.

Si ces conditions et ces modifications sèront acceptées, la Commission est d'avis et croit fermement que de même que les droits du Gouvernement, ainsi que ceux de la population seraient complètement garantis, de même les abus des fonctionnaires trouveraient un obstacle considérable. La Commission opine pour l'adoption de ces modifications.

Chapitre XX.

Arts. 358-360. Depuis l'âge de 15 jusqu'à l'âge de 60 ans chaque individu sans exception est tenu de travailler gratis quatre jours par an à l'ouverture et à la construcion des routes publiques ; ce travail gratuit est obligatoire pendant cinq années, ainsi que chaque individu est tenu de prêter à cet effet vingt journées de travail. La même obligation est imposée aux bêtes de champ, et aux chariots de la province, c'est-à-dire un travail gratuit de quatre jours par an pendant cinq années. Par décision du

Le progrès de l'agriculture et du commerce, le bien-être, la richesse publique, et la prospérité des populations Ottomanes dépendent principalement de la construction des routes, facilitant et assurant les communications, et la sortie et la rentrée des produits du pays, aussi le travail gratuit imposé par cette loi est accepté avec plaisir et reconnaissance par toutes les classes de la population. Mais comme ce système de travail est identique à celui qui avait été adopté jadis, et qui est développé dans le Règlement relatif aux con-

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Conseil Général de la Province ces journées de travail pourront être augmentées, si besoin sera.

Le travail sus-indiqué doit être personnellement par chaque contribuable, le rachat moyennant le paiement de la contre-valeur du travail en argent n'est pas admissible.

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structions des routes, et comme les populations de l'Empire ont travaillé pendant des longues années d'après le dispositif de ce Règlement sans avoir obtenu aucun résultat pratique, car soit dans l'expédition des convois des travailleurs, soit dans les achats des matériaux et des ustensils, il s'est produit de la part des ingénieurs, conducteurs et autres employés de tels abus que le travail imposé aux populations à d'un côté empêché ces dernières de vaquer à leurs affaires au grand détriment de leurs intérêts individuels, et d'un autre côté les salaires, les dépenses, et les achats ont donné lieu à des vols, à des détournements, et au gaspillage de sommes considérables. Il est prouvé par le fait que le travail de la population et les frais qui ont été faits, n'ont produit pas même la dixième du résultat que l'on aurait dû obtenir. La preuve est évidente. Aujourd'hui dans ce vilayet il n'y a pas, comme chacun peut le constater, ni une seule chaussée, ni une seule route tant soit peu carrossable.

Après une expérience si douloureuse et si désastreuse la Commission ne croit pas qu'il soit convenable ni avantageux de suivre le même système, malgré que d'après les nouvelles réformes qu'on va incessamment mettre à exécution, il y ait dans chaque vilayet un fonctionnaire spécialement chargé et responsable, le Directeur des Travaux Publics surveillés par le Conseil Général de la Province.

Le seul fait de voir, comme par le passé, les mêmes procédés, la même routine, les mêmes employés payés et les mêmes mesures aboutissant au détournement et au gaspillement, suffit pour faire perdre confiance au pays. Et d'ailleurs, les contribuables des campagnes aussi bien que ceux des villes étant tous occupés de leur industries, de leurs travaux agricoles et de leur commerce, plutôt que d'aller à des grandes distances travailler quatre jours par an, préfèrent, ceux qui en ont les moyens, de payer en argent l'équivalent de leurs journées de travail. Ceux qui n'ont pas les moyens de payer, travailleraient à la journée à titre d'ouvrier salarié par les entrepreneurs pendant la durée de la construction des routes, et pourraient par ce salaire non-seulement payer à l'instar des autres l'équivalent de leurs quatre journées de travail obligatoire, mais ils gagneraient aussi, par la continuation de ce travail de quoi nourrir leurs familles. Pour ce système d'imposer aux populations le paiement en argent de leurs journées de travail obligatoire on peut se mettre facilement en état de traiter et de concéder par contrat à des Compagnies et

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à des entrepreneurs la construction des routes, comme on fait en Europe, et dont les résultats sont sûrs et pratiques. En adoptant ce système on empêcherait complètement les abus, le gaspillage, et les détournements anciens, et on fermerait à jamais la porte à toutes dépenses inutiles et superflues. Le Conseil Général de la Province fixerait, dans ses réunions annuelles, la somme à payer pour les quatre journées de travail, et cette somme serait encaissée sous la surveillance du Directeur des Travaux Publics par les Percepteurs du vilayet. Le Conseil Général mettrait à la suite d'une décision égale aux enchères publiques en faisant appel à la concurrence des entrepreneurs toute nouvelle construction et réparation des routes, ou, en payant le prix selon les convenances et les conditions stipulées, soit à la fin du travail, soit par des échéances échelonnées et correspondant à l'entrée des sommes dont sont imposées les journées de travail obligatoire.

En adoptant ce système il est évident qu'à l'exception de l'Ingénieur du vilayet on n'a pas besoin d'avoir d'autres employés salariés ni de faire d'autres dépenses, et le Directeur des Travaux Publics rédigeant tous les ans une statistique et un Rapport détaillé sur les travaux qui auraient été faits, et sur les sommes encaissées des contribuables, et sur celles payées aux entrepreneurs. Cette statistique et ce Rapport seraient à la fin de l'année soumis à l'examen et à l'application du Conseil Général de la Province.

La Commission trouve que celui qu'il vient d'exposer est le système le plus convenable et le plus avantageux et propose que les Articles 358 et 359 soit rectifiés en conformité.

No. 413.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 20.)

(No. 60.)

My Lord, *Buyukdéré, July* 11, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to include a copy of the *compte-rendu* of the fifth meeting of the Commissioners.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 433.

Compte-rendu.—Séance No. 5, tenue le $\frac{21 \text{ Juin}}{3 \text{ Juillet}}$ 1880 (25 *Rédjeb*, 1297), *au Lycée Impérial de Galata-Séraï à Constantinople.*

Présidence de son Excellence ASSIM PACHA.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig, Secrétaire de l'Ambassade Impériale d'Allemagne à Constantinople.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
Le Baron de Kosjek, Conseiller de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale Apostolique à Constantinople.

Pour la France—
M. Aubaret, Consul-Général.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Lord E. Fitzmaurice, Membre du Parlement.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni, Premier Drogman de la Légation d'Italie à Constantinople.

Pour la Russie—
M. Hitrovo, Conseiller d'Etat actuel, Consul-Général.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha, Vizir, Membre du Sénat;
Abro Effendi, Fonctionnaire de Premier Rang, Première Classe, Conseiller d'Etat.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure.

Le compte-rendu de la précédente séance, lu par M. Séon, est adopté.

Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice désirerait savoir si MM. les Commissaires Ottomans remettront bientôt la carte des vilayets de la Turquie d'Europe, qu'il leur avait demandée à la première séance de la Commission. Le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne considère cette carte comme d'autant plus nécessaire que, d'après ce qui lui est revenu, il va être opéré un nouveau changement dans le Sandjak de Gallipoli.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha répond que la Sublime Porte ne tardera pas à envoyer cette carte aux Délégués Ottomans, qui s'empresseront de la remettre à la Commission.

Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice propose ensuite de faire imprimer, Chapitre par Chapitre, au fur et à mesure qu'ils auront été examinés, les Articles adoptés, soit à l'unanimité, soit à la majorité, par la Commission.

Cette proposition est adoptée par tous les Commissaires.

L'ordre du jour appelle la suite de la discussion des 100 Articles.

L'Article 24, dont la discussion avait été remise à aujourd'hui, est adopté, dans la forme ci-après, par six Commissaires, après quelques modifications introduites aux amendements présentés, à la dernière séance, par les Commissaires de France et de la Grande Bretagne :—

"Art. 24. Seront de la compétence exclusive de l'Assemblée du vilayet :—

"1. Les lois destinées à régler le fonctionnement de l'organisme administratif, judiciaire et financier, créé par la présente loi.

"2. Les lois d'impôts, hormis ceux qui se rapportent aux Douanes, aux postes et télégraphes, aux impots et monopoles réservés à l'Empire.

"3. Les lois destinées à régler l'évaluation, le recensement et l'imposition des propriétés et des biens de rapport.

"4. Les lois du budget et celles portant approbation des comptes d'un exercice clos.

"5. Les lois de la comptabilité du vilayet.

"6. Les lois destinées à régular la perception des impôts.

"7. Les lois touchant l'instruction publique.

"8. Les lois sur les octrois, sur les mines, sur le régime des eaux, et sur celui des forêts.

"9. Les lois sur la voirie et celles sur la concession, la construction, et l'exploitation des chemins de fer d'intérêt provincial, ainsi que toutes les lois ayant trait à des travaux publics que ne s'exécutent pas aux frais de l'Empire.

"10. Les lois concernant l'agriculture, le commerce, l'industrie, les travaux publics et les intérêts économiques généraux du vilayet.

"11. Les lois relatives aux institutions de crédit.

"12. Les lois réglant la gestion du domaine du vilayet.

"13. Les lois touchant les hôpitaux, les orphelinats, les bureaux de bienfaisance et l'assistance publique.

"14. Les lois sur les dîmes.

"15. Les lois sur les prisons.

"16. Les lois portant création d'un cadastre des propriétés territoriales situées dans le vilayet et celles réglant le régime des hypothèques et le système des expropriations pour cause d'utilité publique.

"17. Les lois sur la gendarmerie et la police en prenant pour base la présente loi.

"L'Assemblée délibère sur toutes les questions ci-dessus nommées.

"Les lois seront soumises à l'approbation de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan qui les sanctionnera, si elles ne portent pas atteinte aux droits et aux principes de la législation de l'Empire. Si, dans la suite, il y avait à apporter des modifications à la présente loi, dans un intérêt purement local, ces modifications votées aux deux tiers des voix seraient également soumises à la sanction de la Sublime Porte.

"La Sublime Porte se réserve de faire connaître sa décision sur tout Projet de Loi, soit directement, en donnant ou en refusant sa sanction, soit indirectement en ne donnant aucune réponse.

"Dans ce dernier cas, au bout d'un terme de quatre mois, datant du jour où le Projet de Loi aura été soumis au Vali pour être présenté à Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, le silence de la Sublime Porte sera interprété comme impliquant la sanction."

MM. les Commissaires Ottomans rejettent cet amendement et maintiennent le texte de l'Article du Projet.

Le Président donne lecture du Titre II et de l'Article 25.

La Commission décide à l'unanimité que le Titre II aura l'appellation suivante :

"*Des Valis.*"

Article 25.

Le premier et le second alinéa de cet Article sont adoptés à l'unanimité.

L'amendement ci-après, proposé par M. Aubaret comme troisième alinéa, est accepté à la majorité de 6 voix :—

"Si le Vali est Musulman, son Mustéchar sera Chrétien, et *vice-versâ*."

MM. les Commissaires Ottomans rejettent cet amendement. Son Excellence Assim Pacha ne pense pas qu'il soit nécessaire d'introduire cette clause dans le Projet, attendu qu'elle s'exécute suivant les circonstances.

Le Chevalier Vernoni fait remarquer que les Commissaires Ottomans rejettent une proposition qui est déjà contenue dans la loi des vilayets.

Tous les Commissaires, sauf ceux de Turquie, adoptent l'ensemble de l'Article 25, amendé par M. Aubaret et qui est ainsi conçu :—

"Art. 25. Les Valis sont nommés pour une période de cinq ans, comme représentants de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan et les plus hauts fonctionnaires du pouvoir exécutif dans les vilayets.

"Ils sont autorisés à dresser et à publier des règlements administratifs relativement aux modes d'exécution de lois.

"Si le Vali est Musulman, son Mustéchar sera Chrétien, et *vice-versâ*."

Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 26.

Article 26.

L'Article 26 est adopté à l'unanimité.

Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 27.

Article 27.

L'amendment suivant, en remplacement de cet Article, proposé par M. Aubaret, soutenu par Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice, est adopté à l'unanimité :—

"Art. 27. Les Valis, pendant leur absence provisiore du siège de leur Gouvernement, ou dans les cas d'empêchement dans l'exercice direct de leurs fonctions, ne peuvent être remplacés que par leur Musiécbar."

Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 28.

Article 28.

Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice propose de remplacer cet Article par l'Article 50 du Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale. Il fait encore remarquer le danger que présenterait l'adoption de lois différentes sur les sujets identiques dans les provinces voisines.

L'amendement ci-dessous, avec quelques petites modifications, est accepté à l'unanimité comme Article 28 :—

"Art. 28. L'état de siège peut être déclaré par le Gouverneur-Général, soit dans tout le vilayet, soit dans une ou plusieurs parties du vilayet :—

"(1.) Lorsque la population résiste à l'exécution d'une loi, d'un règlement, ou d'une ordonnance légalement rendue, et que, après avoir été invitée à l'obéissance, elle persiste dans sa résistance.

"(2.) Lorsqu'il se produit, au sein de la population, un mouvement armé ou des troubles graves, tendant à violer le droit public du vilayet, et que les organes ordinaires de l'autorité sont impuissants à rétablir l'ordre.

"L'ordonnance, proclamant l'état de siège, doit être motivée. Elle doit être portée immédiatement à la connaissance de la Sublime Porte. Elle doit être publiée dans toutes les communes où elle est applicable, et elle n'y a force légale qu'après sa publication.

"L'état de siège doit être levé aussitôt que la cause qui l'a rendu nécessaire a cessé.

"Les effets de l'état de siège seront déterminés par une loi de l'Empire."

Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 29.

Article 29.

Le premier alinéa est accepté à l'unanimité.

Le second alinéa est supprimé à l'unanimité.

Le troisième alinéa, ainsi modifié, devenant le second alinéa, est adopté à l'unanimité :—

"Les Valis nommeront les employés, dont le choix et la nomination rentrent dans leurs attributions, ainsi qu'il sera dit dans le Titre à ce relatif. Ils ne pourront pas créer de nouveaux emplois, sans s'appuyer sur un règlement émanant de l'autorité compétente."

L'amendement ci-dessous, proposé par M. Aubarot, comme troisième alinéa, est adopté à l'unanimité :—

"Tous les fonctionnaires, *sans exception*, sont sous les ordres du Vali et dépendent de lui."

L'ensemble de l'Article, rédigé comme il suit, est renvoyé à la discussion de l'Article 250 :—

"Art. 29. Les Valis, en leur qualité de Chefs du pouvoir exécutif, s'occuperont de la mise à exécution de toutes les lois et règlements, ainsi que la préservation de la sécurité et de la tranquillité publiques.

"Les Valis nommeront les employés dont le choix et la nomination rentrent dans leurs attributions, ainsi qu'il sera dit dans le Titre à ce relatif. Ils ne pourront pas créer de nouveaux emplois, sans s'appuyer sur un règlement émanant de l'autorité compétente.

"Tous les fonctionnaires, *sans exception*, sont sous les ordres du Vali et dépendent de lui."

Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 30.

Article 30.

La Commission, sur la proposition du Baron de Kosjek, supprime, à la majorité de 6 voix, de la dernière phrase de cet Article les mots : "Conformément aux dispositions de la loi de la gendarmerie ;" de façon que l'Article reste ainsi rédigé :

"Art. 30. La gendarmerie et la police du vilayet se trouveront sous les ordres des Valis.

"Les Commandants de ces corps, jusqu'au grade d'Adjudant-Major, seront nommés par les Valis."

Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 31.

Article 31.

Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice propose d'ajouter à cet Article la phrase suivante :

"Lorsque son ordre du jour aura été épuisé dans les limites du terme légal," de telle sorte que l'Article est ainsi conçu :

"Art. 31. Les Valis convoquent les électeurs, conformément aux dispositions du Titre relatif à cette question, à l'élection des membres pour le Conseil Général, ainsi que pour les Conseils Administratifs, Municipaux, et Communaux. Ils réunissent le Conseil Général et décident de la clôture des délibérations, lorsque son ordre du jour aura été épuisé dans les limites du terme légal."

La Commission adopte à l'unanimité cette rédaction.

Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 32.

Article 32.

Le Baron de Kosjek fait remarquer que si le premier alinéa de cet Article était accepté l'Article 24, dans son ensemble, et tout ce qui a rapport aux attributions législatives du Conseil Général seraient, par ce fait même, rendues illusoires.

La Commission, à la majorité de 6 voix, accepte l'Article 32, en supprimant en son entier le premier alinéa, de sorte que l'Article reste ainsi conçu :

"Art. 32. Les Valis soumettent au Conseil Général le Budget des revenus et des dépenses, et lui font part des opérations qui ont eu lieu dans le cours de l'année précédente ; ils mettent à exécution celles des décisions contenues dans le procès-verbal ("mazbata"), dressé par le Conseil Général, qui relèvent directement de leurs attributions ; et ils soumettent aux Ministères respectifs, celles de ces décisions dont l'exécution est subordonnée à une autorisation, ainsi que cela est expliqué dans le Titre y relatif."

MM. les Commissaires Ottomans votent pour le maintien des mots rayés.

Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 33.

Article 33.

Sur la proposition du Baron de Kosjek, la Commission accepte, à la majorité de 6 voix, l'amendement de Salonique à cet Article, en remplaçant les mots : "Au Conseil Permanent" par ceux de "par le dit Conseil." Cet amendement devient donc l'Article 33.

Art. 33. Le Vali discute et arrête, dans le Conseil Administratif, les Statuts et Règlements des Sociétés Anonymes qui se constituent dans le vilayet.

"Après les avoir fait approuver par le dit Conseil, il en autorise la formation et en donne avis au Ministère compétent."

MM. les Commissaires Ottomans votent pour le maintien du texte primitif de l'Article 33.

Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 34.

Article 34.

L'Article 34, auquel quelques petits changements sont introduits, est définitivement adopté à l'unanimité comme il suit :

"Art. 34. Les Valis exécutent les ordres qui leur sont adressés par le Gouvernement Central, dans les limites de la présente loi. Ils contrôlent, en premier lieu, les actes des Mutessarifs et des fonctionnaires du centre du vilayet, et en second lieu, par l'intermédiaire de ceux-ci, les actes des fonctionnaires de toutes les branches d'Administration. Lorsqu'ils ont connaissance des fautes commises par eux, au préjudice de l'Administration, et que les cas constatés exigent l'éloignement des délinquants de leurs fonctions, ils mettent, conformément à la loi, en disponibilité, ceux d'entre eux dont la destitution est exigée ; et ils proposent aux Ministres respectifs la mise en disponibilité de ceux dont la destitution en dépend. Ils ordonnent la mise en jugement, conformément à la loi, du fonctionnaire destitué, si le motif de sa destitution est un crime ou un délit.

"Les Valis contrôlent également les actes des Chefs de l'Administration des Contributions, des Postes, des Télégraphes, des Vakouf's et des Quarantaines, des Capitaines de Port, et, en général, de tous les autres employés qui, se trouvant dans

le vilayet, ne sont pas placés sous leur administration directe. Si des plaintes se produisent contre ceux-ci, ou s'ils entendent parler de leur mauvaise administration, les Valis ordonnent les enquêtes nécessaires, et en soumettent les résultats aux Ministères dont ces employés relèvent. Ces Ministères devront donner une prompte suite aux rapports des Valis en pareil cas."

Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 35.

Article 35.

L'Article 35, dans lequel les mots : " les sandjaks et cazas compris dans le vilayet," sont remplacés par ceux de : " dans le vilayet," est adopté à l'unanimité.

La rédaction définitive, adoptée pour cet Article, est donc celle-ci :

" Art. 35. Les Valis doivent, au moins une fois par an, faire une inspection dans le vilayet. Et si, par suite d'évènements graves, ils jugent nécessaire de se rendre aussi, extraordinairement, sur quelque point du vilayet, ils y vont immédiatement et portent le fait à la connaissance de la Sublime Porte."

MM. les Commissaires Ottomans font constater que, tout en acceptant cet Article dans sa rédaction actuelle, ils maintiennent le principe de la division administrative des vilayets en sandjaks, cazas et nahiés.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée à Mardi, 6 Juillet :

1. Le vote sur la proposition du Chevalier Vernoni relative aux pétitions ;
2. La suite de la discussion des 100 Articles.

La séance est levée à 4 heures et trois quarts.

(Signé) ASSIM.
ABRO.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KOSJEK.
AUBARET.
ED. FITZMAURICE.
VERNONI.
HITROVO.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) SEON.
C. CARTWRIGHT.
GRITZENKO.
M. RÉCHID.

No. 414.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 51.)
My Lord,

Buyukdéré, July 11, 1880.

THE Commissioners of the Powers continue to hold private gatherings between the official meetings of the Commission, in order to discuss the various points as they arise. I attribute the concert which has hitherto been successfully maintained almost entirely to these meetings. The plan we have adopted is by a frank expression of our opinions to ascertain at these gatherings what the views of the majority are. The minority give way, reserving to themselves the right at the official meetings to record in as few words as possible the views that they entertain, but without taking a division, so as not to give the Ottoman Commissioners any chance of disturbing the subsisting agreement. Thus, for example, the Russian Commissioner and myself have expressed our opinion in favour of direct, as opposed to indirect, election, and of the nahié instead of the caza as the electoral district; and I have recorded my view that the Assembly could be allowed to elect its President without any interference on the part of the Vali.

A slight difference of opinion, resulting in a division, occurred for the first time at the meeting of the 18th June in regard to the question of petitions. This difference, however, arose from a misapprehension on the part of the French and Austrian Commissioners as to the precise character of the agreement previously arrived at, and the question was without any difficulty settled at the next informal gathering. I only, indeed, allude to the subject because of the exaggerated accounts which have appeared in the local newspapers as to quarrels among the Commissioners of the Powers, accounts which are absolutely untrue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 415.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 389.)
My Lord,

Vienna, July 13, 1880.

I INFORMED your Lordship by telegraph that the French Ambassador had spoken to Baron Haymerle of the unwillingness of his Government to take part in any operation of a menacing character against Turkey for the sole object of effecting a settlement of the Montenegrin frontier question.

His Excellency says that the objection appeared to him a strange one, and that he could not altogether understand it, as your Lordship had proposed the naval demonstration as a means of convincing the Porte that the Powers were in earnest in their determination that the whole of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin should be carried out, and it was upon this account that he had himself agreed to it.

I am much disposed to believe that this consideration had much to do with the readiness with which Baron Haymerle acceded to your Lordship's proposal.

His language has always been that there is no security for the peace of Europe unless the whole of the Treaty, whether in the parts that he approved or in those which he regrets, is firmly adhered to by all the Powers, and he hopes that, after now taking decided steps to ensure the execution of the provisions relating to Montenegro and Greece, they cannot refuse to show themselves equally resolute in maintaining the arrangements respecting Bulgaria and East Roumelia, for which he considers them more directly responsible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 416.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 391.)
My Lord,

Vienna, July 15, 1880.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram No. 324, I have the honour to inform you that Baron Haymerle told me the day before yesterday that he was continuing to urge Prince Bismarck to allow a German ship or two to take part in the demonstration on the Albanian coast, and that he was not without hope of the German flag being seen among those of the other Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 417.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 393.)
My Lord,

Vienna, July 16, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Baron Haymerle takes quite the same view as your Lordship of the importance of reassuring the Porte in regard to the properties held by Mussulmans in the territories to be ceded to Greece.

The Austro-Hungarian Ambassador had, in fact, brought the matter under the consideration of the Conference of Berlin, as it had seemed to the Imperial Government essential that existing rights and titles should not be disturbed upon the pretext of going back to ascertain how they had originally been acquired; some of the properties being estates forfeited by persons who took part in the Greek War of Independence, and who afterwards retired to Greece.

Instructions similar to those conveyed to Mr. Goschen by your Lordship's telegram No. 260 will be given to the Austrian Representative at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 418.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 304. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 17, 1880.*

BARON HAYMERLE is fully alive to the importance of not allowing the Porte to imagine that a rejection of their demands respecting either the Montenegrin or the Greek frontier may not be followed by measures of coercion on the part of the Powers, and I have been informed by some of my colleagues that he has spoken strongly to them in this sense.

At the same time, he appears determined to be very cautious in taking steps which might so far commit him as to draw this Government into actual hostilities either with the Albanians or with Turkey.

The Russian Ambassador continues to ask what will be the practical effect of a naval demonstration on the coast of Albania if it is determined beforehand that not a man from the allied ships is to be landed; and he expresses the conviction that 500 seamen and marines thrown into Dulcigno would be sufficient to insure to the Prince of Montenegro the possession of the territory assigned to him.

He is told, in reply, that though he may perhaps be right in his supposition, he might very easily prove to be wrong, in which case the Powers would be fatally committed to go much further than this Government propose.

There appears at present little probability of the Austrian Government consenting to go beyond a strictly naval demonstration, though Baron Haymerle admits the truth of what M. d'Oubril says of the possibility of its proving ineffectual.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 419.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 305.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 17, 1880.*

IN his telegram to Mr. Green of the 5th instant, Mr. Goschen has explained the position of the question of the cession of the Dulcigno district to Montenegro precisely as it has been regarded by the Austro-Hungarian Government from the time when the proposal was first brought forward by Mr. Green and M. Lippie.

The success or failure of the project evidently depended upon the manner in which it was received by the Porte, and its originators always appeared to the Imperial Government too sanguine in their expectation of the reception being favourable.

The co-operation of the Turkish Government in preventing the Albanians from a distance proceeding to defend the district to be ceded was considered here as essential in the case of the one project as in that of the other, though it could be effected much more easily if they accepted the Dulcigno arrangement.

It appears from Mr. Goschen's Reports, that there is no prospect of obtaining the Porte's acceptance of it, and the questions now to be considered are, whether the Turkish Government can, if they are disposed, carry out the April agreement, or whether the Dulcigno arrangement is to be enforced by foreign assistance given to the Prince of Montenegro.

Upon the first of these questions the opinion of Mr. Green is opposed to that of the Austro-Hungarian Government, for Baron Haymerle continues to express to me the conviction that the Porte, if it is resolved to do so, can still quite well fulfil its engagement.

With regard to the second question, I may mention to your Lordship that an impression prevailing here, that the Prince of Montenegro wishes to escape the necessity of having himself to make an exertion to take possession of his new territories by

leaving that task to the Treaty Powers, adds to the anxiety of the Imperial Government not to be drawn into active measures further than can possibly be avoided.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 420.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 306.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 17, 1880.*

AGENTS from the Greek Government arrived here a short time ago to purchase horses for the Hellenic army, of which, I am told, they have already bought a considerable number.

According to the reports received by the Austrian Government, the Greek artillery and cavalry were almost entirely without horses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 421.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 307. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 17, 1880.*

AS instructed by your Lordship's telegram, I confidentially told Baron Kallei of the report which has reached you of the violent Philo-Turkish disposition of the Austro-Hungarian Consul-General at Janina.

His Excellency said that he was not aware of the Agent having any political opinions at all, as he never wrote a word indicating what these were, but he was so thoroughly incompetent, that his removal from Janina had already been decided and his successor had set out to relieve him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 422.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 624.)
My Lord, *Paris, July 17, 1880.*

I WENT to M. de Freycinet this afternoon and told him that, as I had led him to expect yesterday, Her Majesty's Government were much disappointed at his declining to take part in the proceedings respecting the Montenegrin question to which Germany, as well as all the other Powers, had now agreed.

I proceeded to read to him your Lordship's telegram No. 283 of last night.

He observed that he did not see how the assurance required by France could at all interfere with the policy your Lordship recommended with regard to the Southern Albanians. He repudiated all idea of a wish to precipitate the Greek frontier question. What the French Government required was that before joining in the proposed note and naval demonstration respecting Montenegro, it should receive an assurance that the other Powers would, in case of need and at the proper moment, pursue the same course with regard to the Greek frontier question. It was not in order to make an immediate announcement that the French Government asked for this assurance, but it was necessary for them to be in possession of it, in order that they might defend themselves before the Chambers in the autumn.

Your Lordship had in fact, his Excellency went on to say, already given the assurance, and it seemed to him that it might also be obtained in a very short time from the other Powers, unless, indeed, some of them had reasons of their own for not giving it.

I found M. de Freycinet even more positive than he was yesterday. He said that the President of the Republic and all the Ministers had approved at the Council this morning the language he had held to me, and that it was not in his power to modify it.

Mr. Adams was present at the interview.

I have already had the honour to transmit the substance of this despatch to your Lordship by telegraph.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 423.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 628.)
Paris, July 19, 1880.

My Lord,

I READ to M. de Freycinet this morning your Lordship's telegram No. 289 of the 17th instant.

His Excellency said that if the other Powers agreed, the French Government would be willing that a Protocol should be signed by the Ambassadors at Constantinople in the terms stated in your Lordship's telegram, being those which have been employed on similar occasions of concert amongst various Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 424.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 630.)
Paris, July 19, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 288 of the 17th instant, M. de Freycinet informed me this morning that he was decidedly of opinion with your Lordship, that the new proposal contained in the Turkish note on the Montenegrin frontier question (mentioned in Mr. Goschen's telegram No. 123) should not be entertained by the Powers, and that the latter should not enter into negotiation for another form of cession, as suggested in that note.

His Excellency added that the Porte was merely playing its old game of causing delays, and that he looked upon the proposal as simply absurd.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 424*.

M. de Hengelmüller to Earl Granville.—(Received July 20.)

Belgrave Square, le 20 Juillet, 1880.

M. le Comte,

LA proposition du Gouvernement Impérial et Royal relative à la frontière entre la Roumanie et la Bulgarie (Arab Tabia), que le Comte Károlyi a eu l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence par sa note en date du 18 Juin dernier, ayant été acceptée par toutes les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, le Cabinet de Vienne croit que cette affaire devrait être terminée par la sanction formelle de l'Acte de Délimitation sur lequel on vient de tomber d'accord.

Pour atteindre ce but le plus promptement possible le Gouvernement d'Autriche-Hongrie est d'avis, que cet Acte de Délimitation qui comblerait la dernière lacune dans les travaux des Commissions Européennes instituées en vertu du Traité de Berlin devrait être inséré dans le texte de la note, dont le projet proposé par le Cabinet de Vienne a été accepté par les Puissances. De cette manière tous les Actes de Délimitation relatifs à la Bulgarie seraient sanctionnés par la même note ce qui, à l'avis de mon Gouvernement, serait préférable au procédé de sanctionner ces Actes par deux notes différentes.

Le Cabinet de Vienne propose par conséquent, que la note, qui a été déjà acceptée par les Puissances et à laquelle se référait la lettre que votre Excellence a bien voulu adresser au Comte Károlyi le 8 Mai dernier, soit modifiée d'après le projet ci-inclus. Ce nouveau projet diffère du premier seulement en cela qu'il contient dans l'énumération des Actes à sanctionner par les Puissances aussi la frontière de la Dobroudja sur laquelle on vient de tomber d'accord. Dans le croquis annexé à ce projet de note se trouvent indiquées les modifications qui ont été faites par les Puissances à l'Acte de Délimitation du

17 Décembre, 1878, en rapport à une petite partie de la frontière à l'est de Silistrie. La frontière telle qu'elle se trouve décrite dans cette annexe est complètement conforme au projet formulé dans la note du Comte Károlyi en date du 18 Juin dernier.

Pour éviter tout malentendu, je me permets de faire observer à votre Excellence que les changements dans la rédaction du texte au commencement et à la fin de la note ont été jugés nécessaires pour mettre l'Acte de Délimitation tel qu'il est issu du sein de la Commission complètement en accord avec le tracé modifié en partie par les arrangements ultérieurs et pour faire de cette manière du nouveau tracé un travail complet et indépendant.

En portant ce qui précède, d'ordre de mon Gouvernement, à la connaissance de votre Excellence, j'ai l'honneur de la prier de vouloir bien m'informer le plus tôt possible de l'accueil que cette proposition aura trouvé auprès du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) HENGELMÜLLER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 424*.

Projet de Note.

LES Actes suivants élaborés par les Commissions de Délimitation instituées en vertu du Traité de Berlin, savoir:—

1. L'Acte en date du 14 Août, 1879, fixant la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale;

2. L'Acte en date du 20 Septembre, 1879, fixant:
   (*a*) La frontière Danubienne de la Bulgarie;
   (*b*) La frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Turquie (Macédoine);
   (*c*) La frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Serbie;

3. L'Acte en date du 17 Décembre, 1878, fixant la frontière Roumano-Bulgare (Dobroudja) avec les modifications des Articles 6 et 7 adoptées ultérieurement par les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin et spécifiées dans l'Annexe ci-joint; enfin

4. L'acte descriptif de la frontière de Serbie

Ayant été examinés par les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin et trouvés conformes aux dispositions de ce Traité;

Et les Puissances étant convenues de prononcer la sanction de ces actes au moyen d'un échange de notes entre les Cabinets;

Le Soussigné, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères d'Autriche-Hongrie, a l'honneur de déclarer par la présente que le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal confirme et sanctionne les Actes énumérés ci-dessus.

Vienne, le

Inclosure 2 in No. 424*.

Modifications apportées aux Articles 6 et 7 de l'Acte en date du 17 Décembre, 1878, fixant la Frontière Roumano-Bulgare dressé par la Commission de Délimitation.

Ad Article 6.

Après le dernier alinéa ajoutez:—

"A la suite d'une décision ultérieure des Puissances modifiant la ligne de démarcation depuis le Danube jusqu'au point de repère No. 5 il a été dressé pour cette partie de la frontière le croquis ci-annexé se rapportant au plan topographique sus-indiqué."

Ad Article 7.

Au lieu des 1er, 2e, 3e, et 4e alinéas, écrivez:—

"La ligne-frontière quittant le Danube au point précisé dans l'Article 2 se dirige en courbe légèrement infléchie vers le sud jusqu'à la mi-pente du second contrefort de la hauteur d'Arab-Tabissi, puis par un angle droit descend cette pente, traverse le ravin pour remonter directement à la ligne de faîte du premier contrefort de la dite hauteur, laissant Arab-Tabissi à la Roumanie. Elle continue en direction approximative nord-sud et va rejoindre la route de Kniaorman à l'embranchement du sentier qui mène au village d'Alimly. A partir de cet embranchement jusqu'au point de repère No. 5

(indiqué dans le cahier descriptif et marqué par un arbre qui se trouve à l'origine du thalweg existant entre les contreforts d'Ordu-Tabiassi et d'Arab-Tabiassi) la frontière est formée par le côté est de la route de Karaorman, laquelle appartiendra ainsi dans sa totalité à la Bulgarie.

"De ce point elle se dirige vers l'est, formée par les lignes droites qui unissent l'arbre sus-indiqué à un grand tumulus isolé *A* et celui-ci à un arbre voisin de la bifurcation des chemins d'Alnaly vers Karaorman et vers Esenkeui (No, 7)."

No. 425.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 20.)

(No. 79.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, July* 19, 1880.

MADAME SKOBELEFF, mother of General Skobeleff, was assassinated last night while driving in the neighbourhood of Philibé, by a Russian officer serving in the Roumelian militia, assisted by three men. Robbery is presumed to be the only motive of the murder. The assassin has committed suicide.

No. 426.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 20, 3 P.M.)

(No. 51.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, July* 19, 1880, 11 A.M.

YOUR Lordship's No. 35 of the 17th, with Mr. Goschen's No. 123 of the 16th July.

There is nothing especial to be said against the modification of frontier proposed by the Turkish note if it is true that the Albanians will not oppose it, and if the Montenegrins would accept.

I think, however, that it is more than probable the Roman Catholic mountaineers will not permit the Turkish troops to return to their former positions, and I have been unable to discover that there is the slightest foundation for the statement of the Scutari authorities that the tribes have consented to a partial surrender of the territory of the April Convention.

The Governor-General informs me that he daily telegraphs to the Porte that the Convention must be accepted as an impossibility, and he already foresees the failure of the Commissioners about to arrive with the object of overcoming the opposition of the mountaineers.

If the Porte would only understand for a single moment the vital importance to Turkey of the retention intact of the North Albanian mountaineers it would abandon at once attempting to upset their organization by handing a portion over to Montenegro, and accept the first opportunity to escape the April Convention.

I also believe that as the North Albanians would be content with reforms based on the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, they may be accorded in a *bond fide* manner. At the same time, I must report that there are more preparations for resistance than for concessions, and that the Turkish authorities are most actively engaged in fomenting them.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 427.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 20.)

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, July* 19, 1880, 11 P.M.

MONTENEGRIN Government informs me that, having heard of the attempt of the Porte to charge before the Great Powers the Montenegrins with the commencement of the fight of the 12th, and with having thus interfered with the preparations of Porte to execute the April Convention, it has directed its Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to require of he Turkish Government the official retractation of this misstatement, and if it is refused, to withdraw from Constantinople.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 428.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 20.)

(No. 130. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 19, 1880, 11·30 P.M.

I HEAR on undoubted authority that the Porte have been actively at work endeavouring to persuade Italian Government to favour compromise most resembling Corti arrangement. Count Corti has telegraphed to [?], urging them in strongest terms to stand to their last agreement with England under all circumstances.

He is anxious that his name should not be mentioned, but assured me of the fact.

No. 429.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 20, 9 A.M.)

(No. 131.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 19, 1880, *midnight.*

I HAVE seen Minister for Foreign Affairs, and put substance of your telegram No. 260 before him. He reserved giving official opinion till after consultation with his colleagues, but neither the prospect of guarantee for Mussulman property, nor hint as to absence of guarantee, if Albanians resist, seemed to produce much impression. He considered whatever happened the Great Powers would do their best to cause private property to be respected, and would not visit on private owners political action of the Porte or of Albanian leaders. He also spoke of guarantee in Berlin Treaty, which had been proved valueless. I told him the communication I made had been made in the sincere wish to contribute towards allaying alarms, and to benefit the Mussulmans who might be included in ceded districts. England had certainly no inclination to give guarantees if they were not valued or not considered necessary. I had made the suggestion; the responsibility would rest with the Porte if they did not act upon it. I shall see the Sultan on the same subject, but he has shown no alacrity as to granting audience, but rather the reverse. The Imperial household is violently anti-English at present [group wrong], as they profess to consider that we are mainly responsible for the Berlin award, and for pressure as to execution of the Montenegrin frontier arrangement.

No. 430.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 20, 9 P.M.)

(No. 132.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 20, 1880, 11·50 A.M.

WITH reference to your telegrams Nos. 265 and 273, I remonstrated with Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday on alleged military preparations. He asked me whether we held similar language to the Greeks. I replied that we were urging them not to issue a Proclamation which would excite feeling and he considered a threat.

I fear the issue of the Proclamation would have a very dangerous effect at the present moment.

No. 431.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 20.*)

(No. 106.) *Vienna, July 19, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

THE answer of the Porte on the Montenegrin Frontier question seems to Baron Haymerle to convey so vaguely the combination proposed in it of the April Agreement and the Dulcigno arrangement, that he does not think it ought to be allowed to become a means of delay, and he is not himself inclined to lay a fresh arrangement before the Prince of Montenegro, but its merits can be considered when the Porte explains it more clearly.

No. 432.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 20.*)

(No. 107.) *Vienna, July 19, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 353, Baron Haymerle says that he would hardly like to authorize the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires to concert in drawing up the proposed simultaneous communication about the Montenegro frontier without having more precisely the language to be adopted in it.

He considers it of too great importance to be left to the Representatives without the previous approval of their Governments.

No. 433.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 20.*)

(No. 26.) *Buyukdéré, July 20, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

MEETING to-day. Financial Articles agreed to, and progress made up to No. 176.

No. 434.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 20, 4·30 P.M.*)

(No. 88.) *Rome, July 20, 1880, 2 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram No. 340 of the 17th July, Italian Government agree with Her Majesty's Government that, in view of united representation now being addressed to Porte, a Protocol should be signed at Constantinople in the terms suggested by your Lordship. Count Maffei again requested me to assure your Lordship that the policy of Italian Government is based on a complete understanding with that of Her Majesty's Government.

No. 435.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.**

(No. 298.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 20, 1880, 5·15 P.M.*

A DESPATCH from Mr. Green of July 6 reports that he has received assurances that no precipitate action will be taken by the Albanian Chiefs against Montenegro if the latter does not attack Albanian territory. Austrian Consul-General and Mr. Green both think that as soon as Porte consents to Dulcigno arrangement it would be accepted by Albanians not only in perfect quietness, but also with a sense of intense relief at the cessation of a state of things which is fast becoming intolerable to the whole population. The rumour that International Commissioners were coming to persuade Albanians to accept Convention of April 12 was received with satisfaction, but they refused to allow Turkish Commissioners alone to enter the country. The Scutari Committee understands that the Dulcigno cession would not be injurious to the future of an Albanian province, while the arrangement of April 12 would be a deathblow to the existence of the Roman Catholic mountaineers, and would end in the absorption of Scutari itself into Montenegro. Mr. Green and the Austrian Consul-General believe that the opposition to the Dulcigno Cession now proceeds only from the Turkish Government, and that the objections of the Albanians will become merely nominal if the will of the Great Powers is clearly expressed.

No. 436.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 430.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 20, 1880.*

I APPROVE the language held by your Excellency in the conversation you had with Baron Haymerle on the 30th ultimo relative to the proposed naval demonstration on the Dulcigno coast, as reported in your despatch No. 362, Confidential, of the 30th June.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 437.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 431. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 20, 1880.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 364, Confidential, of the 1st instant, stating that the Austro-Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs while speaking to you of the difficulty to be expected in obtaining from the Turkish Government their consent to the cession of territory that is required of them, said that he had been considering whether it would not be possible to make some sort of declaration that no further concessions would be demanded of the Porte beyond those prescribed by the Treaty of Berlin. I have to request your Excellency to say to Baron Haymerle that if Austria will propose such a declaration, Her Majesty's Government approving of its principle will be ready to consider its terms.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* Also to Mr. Macdonell (No. 349), Lord Odo Russell (No. 303), Sir H. Elliot (No. 363), and the Earl of Dufferin (No. 381).

No. 438.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.**

(No. 960.) *Foreign Office, July 20, 1880.*

Sir,

IN the despatch from Mr. Green No. 193 of the 6th instant, of which I inclose a copy,† he reports that he had received assurances that no precipitate action would be taken by the Albanian Chiefs against Montenegro, provided that the Montenegrins do not attack Albanian territory.

You will perceive that the Austrian Consul-General and Mr. Green are both of opinion that as soon as the Porte consents to the Dulcigno arrangement, it would be accepted by the Albanians, not only in perfect quietness, but also with a sense of intense relief at the cessation of a state of things which is fast becoming intolerable to the whole population.

The rumour that International Commissioners were coming with a view to persuade the Albanians to accept the Convention of the 12th April was received with satisfaction; but, as it appears, they refused to allow Turkish Commissioners alone to enter the country.

The Scutari Committee understands that the Dulcigno cession would not be injurious to the future of an Albanian province, whilst the arrangement of the 12th April would be a death-blow to the existence of the Roman Catholic mountains, and would end in the absorption of Scutari itself into Montenegro.

Mr. Green and the Austrian Consul-General believe that the opposition to the Dulcigno cession now proceeds only from the Turkish Government, and that the objections of the Albanians will become merely nominal if the will of the Great Powers is clearly expressed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 439.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 67. Political.) *Salonica, July 6, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 4th instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, relative to the reported assassination of Hassan Pasha, the Commandant of Yeni-Bazar, I have since heard another version of the incident from a gentleman who has recently visited Mitrovitza, which place is in direct and frequent communication with Yeni-Bazar.

According to him, Hassan Pasha, with a view to maintain order on the frontier, proceeded to disarm the population, to the great displeasure of some of the leading Albanian and Bosnian refugees in the town, who worked on the minds of the people, and excited them to resist the measure by accusing the Pasha of carrying on improper relations with Mahommedan women. He was more than once publicly insulted by the inhabitants, and at last was waylaid, surrounded, and cut down by an infuriated mob. He received several severe wounds, from which, it is reported, he has since died.

The information which my foreign colleagues have received is also contradictory, but the most recent accounts obtained from private sources tend to divest the occurrence of the political character attributed to it by the Turkish local authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 440.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 68. Political.) *Salonica, July 9, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Bulgarian Propaganda, in Macedonia, of the Russian Consulate-General here in connection with the Bulgarian

* Also to Mr. Macdonell, Lord Odo Russell, Sir H. Elliot, and the Earl of Dufferin.
† No. 344.

Exarchate, has been conducted with more zeal and activity since the present conference at Berlin was decided upon, and the meeting of the East Roumelian Commission summoned at Constantinople.

Numerous agents have been going about the country with petitions demanding the revival of the Bulgarian Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, which they have tried to persuade the peasantry to sign; and their operations extend up to the very gates of Salonica itself, as your Lordship will see from the inclosed translated copy of a letter to the Greek Archbishop of Salonica from the Village of Valmades, about two hours distant from this town, and euphemistically called "Bulgarophone" by the Greeks.

The Greek clergy of the principal dioceses in Macedonia, namely, Pelagonia, Dibra, Moghariou, Vodina, Stroumnitza, Avret-Hissar, Serres, Melnik, Drama, and Elephteropolis, also bitterly complain of the disturbing effects of this propaganda among their flocks; they have denounced the movement to the Ottoman authorities, and are doing their utmost to counteract it. It appears that from each of the above-named districts the Russian Consular Agents have succeeded in procuring for transmission to Constantinople a certain number of petitions praying for the appointment of Bulgarian Bishops; and that in most instances counter-petitions in behalf of the adherents of the Greek Patriarchate, who at present are more numerous than those of the Bulgarian Exarch, have been prepared and forwarded to the Porte and the Phanar by the Greek Bishops in the province. I inclose a translated copy of one of these counter-petitions from the district of Yenidjeh Vardar, included in the diocese of Vodina.

The clergy and leading members of the Greek community here are also very much exercised by this Bulgarian Church movement as conducted under Russian auspices; they fear that should the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Exarch be extended into Macedonia, the mass of the Christian population of the province will acknowledge his supremacy, which they are convinced will eventually be used as a lever for extending the territorial limits of Bulgaria to the Ægean Sea. Thus it is not so much on religious as on political grounds that the Greeks dread and combat the agitation now carried on for the appointment of Bulgarian Bishops in these parts, in accordance with the provisions of the Firman of 1868, constituting the Bulgarian Exarchate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 440.

Letter addressed to the Greek Archbishop of Salonica.

(Translation.)

Most Holy Father, *Valmathi, June $\frac{1}{17}$, 1880.*

ON Pentecost Sunday, the 8th June, the Mukhtar of the Dudular Estate, Constantine Manuces, came to our village and presented to us for signature, on the part of the Russian Consulate, two petitions, the contents of which we could not understand, as they were written in Bulgarian. As we refused to sign these petitions, the emissary, having failed in his object, departed. The following day the Mukhtar of our village, with one of the Notables, having gone to Salonica for private affairs, met the said Constantine Manuces; he took them in hand, and conducted them to the Russian Consulate there, where explanations were asked about the petitions in question. They were told that, as for the last fifty years there had been a movement for the revival of the Bulgarian Patriarchate which existed 100 years ago, and was suppressed by the Greek, and "which you as Bulgarians should alone recognize," these petitions had this aim, as the occasion was favourable for the introduction of reforms here on this point. Our men asked that what was said should be drawn up for them in writing, that they might submit it to the other Notables, saying that without their knowledge and consent they cannot sign. But this was denied them, and so they departed.

We considered it our duty to inform your Eminence of all this, that you might take fitting measures to utterly defeat these plots, the more so, as we were informed that in other villages also round about such petitions were presented for signature.

We are, &c.
The Notables of the village of Valmathi.
(Here follow the signatures.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 440.

Letter from the Christians of the Caza of Jenije to Abédine Pasha.

(Translation.)

Jenije, May 7/19, 1880.

Sir,

THE Undersigned, Orthodox Christian inhabitants of the Caza of Jenije, in the Vilayet of Salonica, faithful subjects of His Imperial Majesty our august Sovereign and obedient spiritual children of the Great and Orthodox Church of Christ, respectfully submit to your Excellency, by our present humble petition, the following:—

Hearing it reported that paid foreign agents at foreign instigation are again withdrawing and misleading by many kinds of promises and false representations certain natives of the country, and that they constantly have this work, and pursue with an infernal zeal these detestable and, amongst us, inadmissible aims, often representing themselves as representatives of the people (so they style themselves), they agitate for the signature of petitions, of which the contents and aim are unknown, in some villages of this sandjak, which in other respects has remained quiet and free from such malevolent intrigues, and desiring at the same time to state clearly our sentiments both as regards the Imperial Government and our spiritual Sovereign the Great Church of Christ, we hasten, from a holy duty, to protest energetically against all such perfidious and underhand operations of any kind whatsoever, which tend to foment discord and to lead many of the more simple, in ignorance, into actions that would perhaps endanger the existing peace and tranquillity of the inhabitants, and we officially declare that, rejecting with indignation such dispositions and operations, which, from the secret way in which they are pursued, afford suspicion, we remain inviolably as ever, and in future, faithful subjects of our powerful Sovereign and inseparable members of the whole Orthodox body and of the religion of our fathers. We recognize the divinely-appointed sovereignty of our august Sovereign Lord, Sultan Abdul Hamid Khan, and our spiritual Sovereign, the Œcumenical Patriarchate, and our canonical Bishop; but we consider the petitions in question, wherever they may be found, as frauds and as non-existing, inasmuch as they were drawn up without our consent.

This protest, a copy of which we forward to his Most Sacred Holiness the Patriarch, we beg you will transmit to the Imperial Government; that having taken cognizance of this it may adopt the necessary measures for the discovery and frustration of those who, by means of false promises and other seductive means, deceive the more simple. Perhaps some of them are Mukhtars (which they ought not to be), and thus give trouble to the Imperial Government and disturb our tranquillity. And you may be sure that we have always repulsed and combated such intrigues, and do so now energetically, as we can never bear that a whole sandjak should be calumniated on account of a few intriguers, whom it is the duty of the Imperial Government and of the local authorities to discover and punish in an exemplary manner, in a way which they know, for the tranquillity of the peace-loving inhabitants. Hopefully believing that your Excellency will energetically take in hand the pursuit and removal of such mercenary agents, we sign ourselves, with the deepest respect, &c.,

The Orthodox Christians of the Caza of Jenije.
(Signed with the seals of all the Caza, and by the leading men of each village.)

No. 441.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 69. Political.)

Salonica, July 9, 1880.

My Lord,

I OBSERVE, both among Turks and Christians in this place, a growing impatience to learn something positive as regards the result of the labours of the Conference now being held at Berlin. What, above all, both seem anxious to learn, is whether the Great Powers intend to carry out the decision of this Conference *vi et armis*, or merely use moral pressure upon the Porte should the latter refuse to abide by it. A report recently telegraphed here, to the effect that the Conference had included Janina in the territory to be ceded to Greece, has created considerable sensation in Turkish quarters; and I gather from persons with whom I have conversed on the subject, and who have business relations in Janina and other towns in Epirus, that the Albanians in that province will not quietly

submit to that decision. Indeed, there are already symptoms indicating serious preparations for an armed resistance in that direction. For instance, I am assured that Albanians are constantly deserting from their regiments and repairing to Epirus, and that others serving as village guards in Macedonia are throwing up their employments and returning to their homes; and it is said that funds are secretly collected through meetings held in the mosques for facilitating their homeward journey. I am further informed that agents have been sent to Italy by some of the leading Beys in Epirus to endeavour to make arrangements for the removal of Albanian women and children to that country from the districts likely to be involved in disturbances in case of a rupture between Turkey and Greece.

It is, moreover, rumoured, but the story lacks confirmation, that Albanian agents have come to Macedonia to collect recruits from the numerous Mahommedan refugees in this province.

I have not been able to discover what encouragement the Ottoman authorities give to these hostile preparations, further than that they take no steps to prevent them.

I should also report to your Lordship that Hedayet Pasha, the Commander-in-chief of the Turkish forces in Thessaly, Epirus, and Macedonia, is occupying and raising works in important positions in the frontier districts, and has telegraphed to the authorities of Salonica that in view of the growing gravity of the situation he has determined to withdraw into Thessaly the troops which are now stationed in the district of Catterina, on this side of Mount Olympus; further, that my Italian colleague has been informed by his correspondent at Volo that orders had been received by Hedayet Pasha from the Porte not to discharge some 2,500 men who have completed their term of service in Thessaly, but Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth does not mention these reports in his correspondence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 442.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 71. Political.)

Salonica, July 12, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, translated extracts, Nos. 1 and 2, from the "Hermes," Greek newspaper, published at Salonica, describing recent acts of brigandage in Macedonia.

The horrible outrages related in Inclosure No. 2 were committed by Turks and Albanians, while Greeks were the authors of those mentioned in Inclosure No. 1 as having occurred in the district of Cassandra.

This district (part of the ancient Chalcidice) which is almost exclusively inhabited by Christians (Greeks), enjoyed comparative tranquillity during the last four or five years, and it was only lately that it became the resort of brigands who, it is said and currently believed here, landed on the coast from the Greek islands opposite for the purpose of preparing an insurrectionary movement.

Although they have found very few adherents among the native Christians, their aggregate number is above forty, and is divided into three bands, under separate Chiefs, who conduct their operations in concert, and have thus far evaded pursuit.

In view of the growing insecurity in that district, I have thought it incumbent upon me to warn British subjects engaged in the chrome mines there against unnecessary exposure, and at the same time have strongly urged the Ottoman authorities to send more troops to the infested localities, which they have promised to do, but I fear not efficiently, as they have not many troops to spare for the purpose.

The military division in the Vilayet of Salonica scarcely numbers 6,000 men of all arms. It is about to be reduced by the transfer of two battalions to Catterina to replace the troops which Hedayet Pasha has determined to recall to Thessaly, as I reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 69 of the 9th instant.

Indeed the military resources of this province are so contracted just now that the authorities have had to withdraw from Kalamaria, a village near Salonica, and send to Catterina, a company of infantry which was specially detached for the protection of the numerous Europeans—including several British subjects—who reside there in summer. Half a squadron of cavalry now occupies the village, but the foreign residents are anxious, and many of them show their want of confidence by employing Albanian guards and cavasses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 442.

Extracts from the "Hermes," of Salonica, of $\frac{\text{June 21}}{\text{July 3}}$, 1880.

(Translation.)

GEORGE TCHEVENIAS and George Joruces, who a short time ago were captured by brigands in Revenicia,* were released last Wednesday. The brigands brought the captives and gave them up to their relatives in the same way as they carried them off, that is to say, they ate, drank, and made merry in George Tchevenias' house, and beat George Joruces as they did when they carried him off.

Brigandage has, it seems, again taken courage. At Ravna,† in the Bishopric of Ardameri, twelve malefactors went last Sunday night about 9 o'clock (Turkish) to the house of the Notable Nanacos, and, as they did not find the son whom they were looking for, they seized the unhappy aged father, and after wounding him with an axe poured boiling oil on his body. Then seizing his unmarried daughter and daughter-in-law they departed, taking with them the most valuable articles, silver plate and a considerable sum of money.

We are informed that troops have been sent in pursuit of these wretches.

Inclosure 2 in No. 442.

Extract from the "Hermes" of $\frac{\text{June 27}}{\text{July 9}}$, 1880.

(Translation.)

CRIMES have latterly so increased that we find ourselves in the disagreeable necessity of describing them in almost every number.

On the $\frac{13}{25}$th June about forty brigands marched into the village of Rosthane, in the district of Morikhowo, and first seizing the men wounded and ill-treated them in every way, and at last shut them up inside a house, after which they began to strip the houses, compelling the women by threats and tortures to show where their husbands' purses were. The village priest's mother they burnt alive, but his wife, after cruelly torturing her, they stabbed with a knife and left her in the last agonies of death. To most of the houses they set fire, and in a word perpetrated every kind of Vandalism.

Outside of a village in the Sandjak of Moglena,‡ but administratively subordinate to the Mudirlic of Fustane, brigands, in all probability from Tanta, close by and exclusively inhabited by Turks, seized a shepherd who was pasturing his flock, and after they had inhumanly slaughtered the unhappy man like a lamb, carried off the whole of his flock, which his son some days later saw led by a Turk of Tanta. The matter was referred to the authorities of Fustane, but the accused remained at liberty and unmolested. And outside another of the villages round about a young cowherd was found murdered, and a day after his cows were found on the Tanta Mountains. And a Christian who went to Fustane by the village of Prothrom (Saint Prodromus), exclusively inhabited by Turks, was mercilessly beaten, and is now confined to his bed. And at Litochori brigands came down on the 12th June and carried off two of the inhabitants, N. Tatsopulo and John Gurnari, of whom the one has hardly anything to live on, and the other is of moderate fortune.

No. 443.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 21.)

(No. 72. Political.) *Salonica, July* 14, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, the translation of an extract from the "Cossova Gazette," relative to alleged disorders on the Turco-Servian frontier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

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* Ravanikia, about 18 hours from Salonica. † Ravana, about 5 hours from Salonica.

‡ District of Florina, in Sandjak of Monastir.—J. E. B.

Inclosure in No. 443.

Extract from the "Cossova Gazette" of July 7, 1880.

(Translation.)

THE privates Bekir and Ali, belonging to the cordon of Imperial troops on the Servian frontier, while taking provisions to the Dewajé guard-house in the Caza of Preschowa on the 9th instant ("à la Greeque"), were stopped by thirty persons, fifteen of whom were dressed in the uniform of the Servian cordon troops on the frontier, and fifteen in the clothes worn by the population. Three of these persons lying in ambush for them came out and told them to surrender the provisions they were taking, their arms, ammunition, and property, or they would be killed.

The men, as soldiers, refusing to do this, Bekir, we regret to say, was hit by three bullets and killed, but Ali, passing through some briars behind him, replied to their fire and defended himself for an hour and a-half, then, taking Bekir's arms, uniform, and ammunition, went to the guard-house and described what had taken place to Lieutenant Adel Agha, who with several of his men went to the scene of the murder but saw no one. The body of the victim was found, and we are informed by the Kaïmakam of Preschowa that, on the extraction by the doctor, in the presence of the troops and of Servian officers, of the bullets it was proved that they were Servian.

On account of the great number and repetition of these occurrences by the Servian troops, his Excellency the Vali has written to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs complaining of this, and requesting the taking of the necessary steps.

No. 444.

Consul Sandwith to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 21.)

(No. 32. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, July* 10, 1880.

DURING the last month a petition has been circulating in this island praying for its annexation to Greece. It made its appearance simultaneously with the news of the meeting of the Conference at Berlin. It is addressed to that body, and having been numerously, but by no means unanimously, signed, I hear that it has now been forwarded to Berlin.

The petition is supposed to have been drawn up at Athens by Cretan refugees domiciled in that city since the insurrection of 1866. As many of these men are in the receipt of pensions from the Greek Government the movement can hardly be considered spontaneous, and it is certain that it has not been received with enthusiasm on the spot.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 445.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 21.)

(No. 201. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, July* 11, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a note received by me last night from Voïvoda Radonich, the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Cettinjé, communicating to me the announcement made by the Turkish Envoy to the Prince's Government, that the Porte is prepared to execute immediately the Convention of the 12th April last, and to deliver to Montenegro the territory ceded thereby.

M. Radonich states that the Montenegrin Government has left the matter entirely for the decision of the Great Powers, but that the Principality is willing to accept either the execution of the April Convention or of the Dulcigno proposal, provided promptness, regularity, and honesty are observed by the Ottoman Government.

I at once returned the reply, of which the inclosed is a copy, to the Voïvoda, informing his Excellency that I believed Her Majesty's Government would view with satisfaction any agreement tending to secure the peaceable settlement of the Porte's Treaty engagements towards Montenegro.

M. Radonich, however, informs me privately that the Prince's Government has no

faith whatever in the renewed promises made to it by the Turkish Government, as it is aware that nothing has been done by the Porte within the last few days to annul the results of the system of resistance in North Albania which it has been at so much trouble to organize during the past two years.

I can, unfortunately, confirm this impression as far as matters stand here in Scutari, and I am, furthermore, obliged to add that I believe it is now, more than ever, beyond the power of the Turkish authorities to secure the peaceable surrender of the territory on the east side of Lake Scutari.

This conviction is not based solely on the assurances given me by the Roman Catholics, but also on those of Mahommedan Arnauts possessing the greatest influence over their countrymen; and, as far as matters have gone already, I have found their declarations worthy of serious attention.

The threat, contained in Voivoda Radonich's note, of the withdrawal of the Montenegrin Chargé d'Affaires from Constantinople, I think may be overlooked as long as the Powers themselves are agreed upon the course it is necessary to follow in the affairs of Montenegro, for I am sure the Prince will accept whatever advice is given him by them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 445.

M. Radonich to Mr. Kirby Green.

Cettinjé, le $\frac{30 \text{ Juin}}{12 \text{ Juillet}}$, 1880.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

LE Ministre de Turquie vient de me communiquer que la Sublime Porte, en réponse à la dernière note des Ambassadeurs, concernant un nouvel échange de territoire, se déclare prête à exécuter immédiatement le Memorandum du 12 Avril dernier, et à remettre à la Principauté les territoires qui lui reviennent d'après cette Convention.

Son Excellence Khalid Bey a été chargé par son Gouvernement de demander notre avis au sujet de cette détermination de la Sublime Porte.

Je crois devoir vous communiquer, M. le Chargé d'Affaires, la réponse que nous avons faite au Ministre de Turquie. Nous lui avons dit que, tout en ayant abandonné cette question à la décision des Puissances, et ayant adhéré à la nouvelle proposition d'échange, qui fait l'objet de la dernière note des Ambassadeurs, nous n'avions aucune objection à faire contre la solution de la difficulté pendante, dans un ou dans l'autre sens, pourvu que le mode d'exécution obtienne l'approbation des Puissances, et que la Sublime Porte leur donne des garanties suffisantes qu'elle aura lieu d'une façon prompte, régulière, et sans arrière-pensée.

En présence du retard que la Porte avait mis à répondre à la dernière note des Ambassadeurs, retard sous lequel nous avions tout lieu de discerner son dessein de recourir à des nouveaux subterfuges, nous avions l'intention de couper court à des négociations infructueuses de notre part en rappelant notre Chargé d'Affaires de Constantinople; mais à la suite de la nouvelle proposition de la Turquie, et sa déclaration qu'elle est prête à exécuter le memorandum, le Chargé d'Affaires de Monténégro a été invité à retarder son départ jusqu'à nouvel ordre.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) S. RADONICH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 445.

Mr. Kirby Green to M. Radonich.

Scutari, le 10 *Juillet*, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

J'AI l'honneur d'accuser réception de la note de votre Excellence du $\frac{25 \text{ Juin}}{7 \text{ Juillet}}$, me communiquant les démarches faites par la Sublime Porte auprès du Gouvernement Princier par l'entremise de son Envoyé, Khalid Bey, pour faire connaître qu'elle est prête à exécuter immédiatement le memorandum du 12 Avril dernier, et à remettre à la Principauté les territoires qui lui reviennent d'après cette Convention.

Je viens à l'instant même de transmettre au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique la teneur de la réponse du Gouvernement Princier à Khalid Bey, ainsi que la suspension du rappel qui avait été décidé du Chargé d'Affaires Monténégrin de Constantinople.

Je me crois, cependant, autorisé d'assurer dès à présent votre Excellence que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique n'apprendrait qu'avec satisfaction la nouvelle d'un accord entre le Gouvernement Monténégrin et la Sublime Porte, ayant pour but la mise en paisible exécution, sans plus de retard, des engagements existants des deux parties au sujet de la frontière Albano-Monténégrin.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 446.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 21.)

(No. 145.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 16, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of the reply of the Porte to the identic note of the 26th ultimo on the Montenegrin question, which I received late last evening, and of which the substance has been telegraphed to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 446.

Abédine Pasha to Mr. Goschen.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Thérapia, le* 15 *Juillet*, 1880.

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la note responsive que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser en date du 26 Juin au sujet de la question du Monténégro.

Votre Excellence, tout en déclinant la proposition de la Sublime Porte, se déclare autorisée par son Gouvernement à nous indiquer comme l'équivalent des cessions stipulées par l'Acte du 18 Avril une rectification de frontière à l'est et à l'ouest du Lac de Scutari, rectification qui, du côté de la mer, étendrait le littoral appartenant aujourd'hui au Monténégro jusqu'à l'embouchure de la Bayana, y compris Dulcigno.

Votre Excellence conseille en même temps à la Sublime Porte d'accorder aux Albanais de la Province de Scutari certains arrangements administratifs.

Je suis autorisé à déclarer, en réponse, à votre Excellence, que le Gouvernement Impérial est résolu à user, dans la mesure du possible, de tous les moyens propres à assurer la prompte réoccupation des positions qui ont été évacuées par les troupes Impériales et qui se trouvent aujourd'hui entre les mains des Albanais, et à arriver ainsi à l'exécution de l'Acte du 18 Avril.

Toutefois, la Sublime Porte n'hésite pas à prendre en considération le mode de solution indiqué dans la note précitée de votre Excellence, bien que son application n'en soit pas moins hérissée de difficultés.

En attendant, je crois devoir annoncer à votre Excellence que, d'après les rapports que le Gouvernement Impérial vient de recevoir de Scutari, les efforts déployés par nos autorités ont eu déjà pour résultat d'obtenir que les Albanais ne s'opposeront pas à la cession de la plus grande partie du territoire dévolu au Monténégro par la Convention du 18 Avril.

En présence de ce résultat, le Gouvernement Impérial se prévalent du principe d'échange déjà admis par les Puissances, pense que la cession consentie par les Albanais pourrait servir à un arrangement des plus satisfaisants, si l'on y ajoutait, comme compensation pour le reste, un territoire d'une étendue plus considérable à prendre dans le district de Dulcigno hormis la ville de Dulcigno, habitée exclusivement par des Musulmans Albanais.

En vous communiquant ce qui précède comme une proposition qui, dans la pensée de la Sublime Porte, offre tous les avantages d'une solution prompte et pacifique, j'aime à espérer que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique voudra bien approuver un tel arrangement qui est, sans contredit, de nature à écarter les complications et difficultés inévitables que provoquerait l'application soit de l'Acte du 18 Avril, soit du mode de solution proposé dans la note en question de votre Excellence, en même temps qu'il contribuerait à la réconciliation des Monténégrins et des Albanais, ainsi qu'au rétablissement des rapports de bon voisinage entre ces deux peuples.

En ce qui concerne les arrangements administratifs à conférer aux Albanais de la Province de Scutari, je me permettrai de faire observer à votre Excellence que les populations de cette province se sont montrées satisfaites de leur situation et qu'elles n'ont jamais eu la pensée de demander à la Sublime Porte des privilèges autres que ceux dont elles ont joui jusqu'à ce jour.

Au demeurant, le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman a mis en ce moment à l'étude, conformément aux dispositions de l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin, un Règlement applicable à toutes les provinces de la Turquie d'Europe, et il va sans dire que l'Albanie sera également appelée à en bénéficier.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) ABÉDINE.

No. 447.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 330. Confidential.)
Rome, July 12, 1880.

My Lord,

ON receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 294 I lost no time in communicating with the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs upon the subject of the proposed naval demonstration on the Dulcigno coast. Count Maffei has just written to inform me that this proposal has been laid before the Cabinet, who have unanimously pronounced in its favour; not only because the other Powers have accepted it, but because the King's Government desire to act in complete accord with England.

The Italian Government thus consent both to the simultaneous communication and to the naval expedition which is to follow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 448.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 337.)
Rome, July 17, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Malvano, Director of the Political Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, called upon me this morning with a message from M. Cairoli, and, after having delivered it, stated that a telegram, sent at the request of the Prince of Montenegro, had been received last evening from the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Cettinjé, of the following purport:—

"That the Prince has heard of the intention of the Powers to assist him by a naval demonstration to take possession of the Dulcigno district; but he has serious apprehensions that a naval demonstration will be insufficient to enable him to overcome the resistance of the Albanians, backed up by Turkish troops, and, moreover, after three years' warfare, he feels it impossible to undertake the sacrifices which would be entailed upon him by entering on a new conflict. Under these circumstances, he requests the Italian Government to sound the other Powers as to their views respecting further measures."

M. Malvano added that instructions had been sent to General Menabrea to bring this question before your Lordship, but that the Italian Government had not as yet communicated with any other Government on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 449.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 341.)
Rome, July 17, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE just received a visit from the President of the Council, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

M. Cairoli commenced almost immediately speaking of the new Turkish proposal, of which the Italian Government received telegraphic intelligence yesterday morning, for the settlement of the Montenegrin question. His Excellency said that as the proposal did not appear to be a very wide departure from the Dulcigno arrangement, which the Porte asserted its inability to accept, that in view of the hesitation of certain Powers to join in the naval demonstration—hesitation which becoming known at Constantinople would certainly encourage the Porte in resistance—and also with reference to the inability expressed by the Prince of Montenegro to undertake, without more effective assistance from the Powers than a display of naval forces, a war upon Albania which His Highness discussed as in point of fact a disguised war against Turkey, it was decidedly his (M. Cairoli's) opinion that the Turkish proposal should be closed with at once, on the condition, of course, that the Porte would immediately proceed to carry it into effect, and not be allowed to make use of it as another means for delay and procrastination.

I told M. Cairoli that I would lose no time in making this opinion known to Her Majesty's Government.

I then said that as I was about to avail myself of leave of absence granted me by your Lordship, I should be glad to be able to answer any questions which might be put to me by your Lordship as to the views of the Italian Government upon the present state of things, and the policy to be followed.

M. Cairoli did not hesitate to say that he foresaw great difficulties in the way of a settlement of the Greek frontier question. He attached, he said, the greatest importance to the maintenance of European concert in dealing with it. He believed that any one Power detaching itself, or holding back from the others, would be fatal to the efforts of those who were working for a pacific solution. His Excellency did not say, however, what he thought should be done in the event of the Porte not yielding to moral pressure, but he gave me the assurance, and requested me to convey it to Her Majesty's Government, that while desiring the co-operation of all the Powers in regard to this and other questions, the most earnest wish of the Italian Government—the basis of their policy, indeed—was a complete and cordial union with England, and that, therefore, any proposal coming from Her Majesty's Government would, they might be assured, receive the most favourable consideration on the part of the Italian Government. He had nourished the hope of an intimate understanding on all questions between England, France, and Italy, but there had been certain phases in French policy lately which he did not quite comprehend.

Having mentioned to M. Cairoli that Her Majesty's Government was ready to secure for the Mussulmans their rights of property and civil and religious liberty, if the cession to Greece is peacefully accepted, his Excellency replied that the Italian Government would be perfectly willing to join in such a guarantee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 150.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 313. Confidential.)
Berlin, July 17, 1880.

My Lord,

IN obedience to your Lordship's instructions, I told Prince Hohenlohe to-day, with reference to the Sultan's request for German officials to be employed in reorganizing the Turkish Administration, that Her Majesty's Government would gladly see Germans employed for that purpose, that from no country could come more trustworthy and competent men, and that Her Majesty's Government rejoiced in any step which would show the interest Germany took in reforms which are essential in Turkey.

Prince Hohenlohe replied that he felt gratified by your Lordship's approval of the proposed measure, which he agreed in hoping might prove beneficial to Turkey. With that hope the German Government had not hesitated to comply with the Sultan's urgent request, and had sent Councillor Wettendorf, a very able official, to Constantinople to ascertain personally what was wanted before definitively accepting a new post and entering upon new duties in Turkey.

Her Majesty's Government hoped, I said, that the German Government would not, by allowing their officers at this time to take part in the military administration, encourage Turkey in the resistance which the Porte appeared to be preparing to the Berlin Conference Award.

Prince Hohenlohe replied that he did not share this apprehension of Her Majesty's

Government. The contingency was one in any case the German Government could have no difficulty in dealing with and guarding against.

After some inquiries respecting the position of Baker Pasha and other Englishmen in the Sultan's service, his Highness went on to say that the difficulty with German officers was their reluctance to exchange the German uniform for that of the Turkish army, so that hitherto none could be sent, and before any volunteers presented themselves, it was probable that the frontier questions in Turkey would have been satisfactorily settled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 451.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 314. Secret.) *Berlin, July 17, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my preceding despatches Nos. 302 and 313 on the subject of the Sultan's request for German officials to be employed in reorganizing the Turkish administration, I have been privately informed, on trustworthy authority, that Prince Bismarck's principal motive for complying with His Majesty's wishes is to get possession of correct and reliable information respecting the secret state of affairs in Turkey, which it may be useful to him to know hereafter, because he is personally under the impression that the unanimous efforts of Europe to reform the Turkish Empire are hastening on the collapse of the central authority at Constantinople.

Prince Bismarck is reported to have somewhat cynically observed to a friend that, since the last attempted race for Constantinople had induced the Powers most interested in it to take up their posts of observation for the future at Sophia, Novi-Bazar, and Cyprus, the next race would probably bring them all three still nearer to the winning-post, when a comfortable seat, secured beforehand, in the grand stand, might better enable Germany to judge of their respective chances, and make her book accordingly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 452.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 637.) *Paris, July 20, 1880.*

My Lord,

I FOUND M. de Freycinet at the Foreign Office late this afternoon, and spoke to him with reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 296 of yesterday evening.

I mentioned to his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government had good reason to believe that it would greatly assist the peaceful settlement of the Greek frontier question if the Mussulman proprietors in the districts to be ceded by the Berlin Award to Greece were assured the possession of their estates, and I said that Mr. Goschen was now instructed to declare to the Porte that England was ready to secure to these proprietors their rights, property, and civil and religious liberty, provided the cession to Greece were accepted peacefully; but that if they were to resist the Award, they must not expect that equal consideration would be shown for their interests.

I stated to M. de Freycinet that it seemed very important that the Representatives of other Powers should make similar declarations, and that I was desired by your Lordship to ask him whether he would instruct the French Representative at Constantinople to make such a declaration to the Porte on the part of France.

M. de Freycinet replied that he saw no objection to this course, and that he would instruct M. Tissot accordingly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 453.

Abédine Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, July 21.)

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Le 15 Juillet, 1880.*

NOUS tenons de source officielle les renseignements suivants sur les événements tragiques qui ont eu lieu dans la zone orientale de la ligne de démarcation entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale.

Vingt-trois villages Musulmans situés tant dans la Principauté que dans la Roumélie Orientale ont été attaqués, saccagés, et pillés par les Bulgares qui en ont incendié et détruit plusieurs de fond en comble. Les habitants ont été massacrés ou soumis aux traitements les plus infâmes; sur quatre-vingt prisonniers Musulmans on en a pendu quatre par ordre d'un prêtre Bulgare; quant au reste, la moitié a été massacrée en route et l'autre moitié conduite à Varna.

Que ces actes criminels aient été prémédités de longue date, nos informations ne laissent subsister aucun doute à ce sujet. En effet, les paysans Bulgares avaient été avisés d'avance des événements sanglants auxquels la milice de la Principauté, les Gymnastes, et les gendarmes Roumélliotes devaient prendre une part si active.

Contrairement aux suggestions des autorités locales tendantes à faire accroire à une révolte Musulmane, il y a lieu de faire remarquer que la première attaque contre Bellova a été faite par des paysans Bulgares, encouragés par l'attitude de la force armée qui se tenait pour ainsi dire cachée, et que les Musulmans ayant voulu se défendre, les scènes de carnage dont ils ont été victimes commencèrent.

Les sinistres projets qu'on avait préparés contre ces malheureux ont reçu ainsi leur exécution plus tôt peut-être que ne l'espérait le Préfet d'Aïdos lui-même quand il prêchait, quelques jours avant ces événements, l'extermination des Musulmans par les Bulgares.

Agissant d'après un plan arrêté, les assassins se sont livrés à des actes inouïs sur une étendue de territoire de huit heures en longueur et de trois en largeur.

Au surplus, je vous transmets ci-joint une notice contenant le récit de quelques-unes des atrocités dont il s'agit et des griefs formulés par les Musulmans contre les Bulgares.

Un des moyens les plus propres à remédier à cette situation serait à l'avis du Gouvernement Impérial, le désarmement général de la population de la Principauté. Puisque tous les efforts tentés jusqu'à présent par la Sublime Porte pour améliorer le sort des Musulmans de la Bulgarie ont été stériles, nous croyons devoir nous en remettre aux Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin du soin de charger leurs Consuls à Sophia de se rendre sur les lieux pour écouter le reste des victimes et concerter ainsi en connaissance de cause les mesures à prendre en vue d'assurer, conformément à l'esprit et à la lettre du même Traité, une égalité parfaite de traitement entre les Musulmans et les Chrétiens et de mettre enfin un terme à l'état de choses déplorable ci-dessus signalé.

Pleine de confiance dans les sentiments d'humanité des Cabinets, la Sublime Porte n'hésite pas à y faire un nouvel appel pressant, et vous prie de faire auprès de sa Seigneurie le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères d'Angleterre les démarches nécessaires pour amener le résultat désiré.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) ABÉDINE.

Inclosure in No. 453.

Memorandum.

DERNIÈREMENT un certain nombre de miliciens Bulgares, après s'être réunis aux habitants de Tcheuki-Kébir, ont attaqué les villages de Bekdji et de Sari-Cavanli. Ils ont pris des habitants Musulmans de ces localités une somme de 28,000 piastres et ont emmené quatre-vingt d'entre eux à Lopochta, où ils en ont pendu quatre.

Le village de Bellova a été aussi l'objet d'une attaque semblable de la part de brigands et de miliciens Bulgares. Ceux-ci ont également cerné plusieurs villages avoisinants qu'ils ont pillés et brûlés, en mettant à mort tous ceux des habitants qui sont tombés entre leurs mains et en réduisant les autres à la plus misérable situation. Il y a quelque temps le Chef de Police de Pravadi a fait arrêter dix

Musulmans de Piradjé et des villages avoisinants sous la fausse accusation de vagabondage.

Après avoir maltraité quatre d'entre eux, il les confia à des gendarmes Bulgares qu'il menaça de mort s'ils les laissaient échapper. Conduits dans une forêt, ces malheureux ont été tués et jetés dans deux puits. Des Musulmans étant allés peu de jours après à la recherche des cadavres des victimes pour leur rendre les derniers devoirs religieux, les Bulgares les chassèrent en les accablant d'injures.

Sous prétexte de rechercher les assassins d'un commerçant tué à Varna, les gendarmes Bulgares ont attaqué les villages Musulmans avoisinants et ont arrêté un grand nombre d'habitants à qui ils ont fait subir toutes sortes de mauvais traitements.

Le nommé Koussé Hussein Oglou Ali, de Sova (district de Pravadi), a été assassiné par les Bulgares, pendant qu'il était en train de couper du bois dans une forêt. Son corps a été retrouvé portant un nombre considérables de blessures, et la tête séparée du tronc. Les autorités Bulgares, informées du fait, n'ont pris aucune mesure pour découvrir les coupables.

Les Musulmans du district de Pravadi ont, d'ailleurs, particulièrement à se plaindre des vexations dont ils sont l'objet de la part des Bulgares. Ceux-ci dévalisent leurs maisons, les maltraitent de la façon la plus cruelle, violent leurs femmes, sans que les autorités semblent se soucier le moins du monde de ces actes criminels.

Lors des élections, on empêche les Musulmans de la Bulgarie d'élire des Députés Musulmans et on les force à donner leurs voix à des Bulgares qui ne possèdent point leur confiance. Cela se passe presque toujours ainsi, contrairement aux règles les plus élémentaires du principe de l'élection.

Les Bulgares font journellement des descentes dans les maisons Musulmanes, et toutes les fois qu'ils découvrent des armes, ils y trouvent prétexte pour maltraiter leurs propriétaires.

Les habitants Musulmans de Roustchouk sont aussi l'objet des traitements les plus odieux de la part des Bulgares. Des gendarmes ont pénétré dernièrement dans trois maisons Musulmanes sous prétexte d'y rechercher des armes. Ces perquisitions ayant amené la découverte de quelques vieux fusils, leurs propriétaires ont été conduits unitamment à Cassimlar pour y être incarcérés.

Le lendemain, ces mêmes gendarmes ont amené à Cassimlar une jeune dame Musulmane de Salihler, à laquelle ils ont fait subir les derniers outrages.

Des 2,000 maisons Musulmanes de Sophia, les 1,500 ont été complètement démolies. Les matériaux en ont été distribués aux Bulgares. Quant à leurs emplacements, on leur a fixé un prix illusoire (40 paras par pique), mais on les a vendus au quintuple de ce prix aux indigènes Bulgares et aux immigrants.

On offre aux anciens propriétaires de ces terrains le montant du prix factice précité, déduction faite aussi de 20 pour cent à titre de frais d'embellissement de la ville.

Les 500 maisons qui restent encore debout sont toutes occupées, soit par les Administrations Gouvernementales, soit par des fonctionnaires publics ou officiers de l'armée.

Les propriétaires Musulmans se sont plusieurs fois adressés aux autorités locales pour demander la restitution de leurs biens. Chaque fois il leur a été répondu que ces maisons avaient été vendues et qu'ils devaient consentir à recevoir, comme produit de la vente, une somme illusoire (pour une maison valant 100,000 piastres on n'offre que 3,000 piastres, sur laquelle 20 pour cent devra encore être réduit, comme il a été dit plus haut, pour frais d'embellissement).

Les fermes et métairies abandonnées par les Musulmans émigrés ont été pillées par les Bulgares. Les constructions qu'elles renfermaient ont été détruites. Les terrains nivelés ont été ensuite affermés pour deux ans par les autorités locales à leur propre profit.

De même les immeubles, tels que boutiques, bains, khans, &c., sis à Sophia et appartenant à des Musulmans ont été donnés à loyer par les autorités arbitrairement et sans le consentement des propriétaires, qui se trouvaient présents.

Les titres réguliers de propriété ou tapous ne sont pas reconnus. On demande le témoignage des Bulgares qui le vendent trop cher. Le témoignage des Musulmans les plus respectables n'est pas admis.

En somme, l'état déplorable dans lequel ils se trouvent forcera les Musulmans de la Bulgarie à s'expatrier. Déjà plusieurs familles Musulmanes de Roustchouk ont émigré dans la Dobroudja.

Des Musulmans de Sophia, en nombre considérable, émigrent aussi à Andrinople

pour échapper aux actes vexatoires, aux mauvais traitements, et aux atrocités inouïes dont ils sont continuellement l'objet de la part des Bulgares.

Cette émigration, d'après toutes les apparences, sera suivie de bien d'autres.

No. 454.

M. de Giers to Prince Lobanow.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Prince Lobanow, July* 21.)

(Télégraphique.) *St. Pétersbourg, le* $\frac{8}{20}$ *Juillet*, 1880.

CONFORMEMENT à la demande qui en a été adressé ici par l'entremise de Lord Dufferin, l'Empereur a consenti :—

1. A procéder, en réponse à la dernière note de la Porte sur l'affaire Monténégrine, à la sommation convenue entre les Puissances à la suite des propositions antérieures du Cabinet Anglais;

2. A agir en commun dans la question de la frontière Grecque, dans la même manière que dans celle de la frontière Monténégrine; et

3. A faire signer par les Représentants à Constantinople un Protocole, constatant le désintéressement des Puissances, à l'instar de ce qui a eu lieu dans des cas analogues (et nommément dans l'affaire du Liban).

No. 455.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 21.)

(No. 53.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, July* 20, 1880, 6·30 P.M.

PRENK BIB DODA, and the Mirdite contingent with him, left Tusi, and will be in Scutari this evening.

I have not yet ascertained reason for their withdrawal.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 456.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 21.)

(No. 108.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July* 21, 1880.

THE naval demonstration. Austrian Government agree in principle to the proposal that the Powers should give an assurance that they would, in case of need, make united demonstration with respect to Greek frontier similar to that to be made about Montenegro, but they defer declaring their acceptance until they have more minutely considered the proposal in all its bearings. They also agree in principle to the Protocol proposed in your Lordship's telegram No. 351, but must reflect upon the form that it will be proper to give it.

No. 457.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 21.)

(No. 64. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, July* 21, 1880.

PRINCE HOHENLOHE has not yet received Prince Bismarck's official reply respecting the self-denying Protocol and the French conditions in regard to the Dulcigno naval demonstration.

He does not doubt that the Chancellor will agree to both.

I have strongly urged sending German ships to the Mediterranean so as to be prepared to take part in the Dulcigno and Greek naval demonstrations.

No. 458.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 65.) *Berlin, July 21, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR Lordship's No. 302.

Prince Hohenlohe says that Count Hatzfeldt has received general instructions to concert with his colleagues in regard to similar declarations at Constantinople.

No. 459.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 306.) *Foreign Office, July 21, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

YOURS No. 106.

Her Majesty's Government concur in Baron Haymerle's views as to the Porte's answer respecting Montenegrin frontier.

No. 460.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 21, 3·30 P.M.)

(No. 133.) *Therapia, July 21, 1880, 10·30 A.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

WOULD it be expedient to give publicity, by statement in the House of Commons or otherwise, for instance, by my speaking very openly here, to the steps we are taking to guarantee Mussulman property in districts to be ceded? It is almost more necessary to reach the Turkish public than the Turkish Government. Local press reports questions in the House of Commons on Turkish matters.

No. 461.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.[a]

(No. 374.) *Foreign Office, July 21, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING answer received from Berlin to telegram of 19th respecting Mussulman populations:—

[See No. 458.]

No. 462.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 2.) *Foreign Office, July 21, 1880, 6·15 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram No. 1 of 16th, you are authorized to support the remonstrance of the Roumanian Agent against the refusal of the Bulgarian Government to recognize the right of Roumania to Consular jurisdiction. Her Majesty's Government consider that Article L of the Treaty of Berlin, taken in conjunction with the last paragraph of Article VIII, supports the claim of Roumania. Austrian Government hold the same view, and have instructed their Representative to insist on the stipulations of the Treaty being faithfully carried out.

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[a] Also to Mr. Goschen (No. 300), the Earl of Dufferin (No. 396), and Sir A. Paget (No. 362).

No. 463.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 21, 7·30 P.M.)

(No. 112.) *St. Petersburgh, July 21, 1880, 4·40 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram No. 371, M. de Giers wished to know whether all the other Powers have agreed to proposal of Her Majesty's Government to present identic note respecting Montenegro to the Porte. He says that Russia will agree.

He says she will also agree to give assurances asked for in your telegrams Nos. 369 and 372. I have not yet received his official replies.

No. 464.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 274.) *Foreign Office, July 21, 1880.*
Sir,

I HAVE requested your Excellency by telegraph to obtain for the Admiralty all the information which you can collect as to the present condition of each ship in the Turkish fleet, of which a list was furnished by Captain Swaine, and forwarded in Sir H. Layard's despatch No. 436 of the 18th April last.

I have also requested your Excellency to instruct Her Majesty's Consuls at the Black Sea and Mediterranean ports to report to me by telegraph all movements of Turkish ships of war.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 465.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 89.) *Foreign Office, July 21, 1880.*
Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram No. 1 of the 16th instant relating to the dispute which has arisen between the Roumanian Agent and the Bulgarian Government as to the right of Roumania to Consular jurisdiction in that Principality, and I have authorized you by telegraph to support the remonstrance of your Roumanian colleague against the refusal of the Bulgarian Government to recognize that right.

Her Majesty's Government consider that Article L of the Treaty of Berlin, taken in conjunction with the last paragraph of Article VIII, supports the claim set up by Roumania.

I am informed that the Austrian Government are of the same opinion, and have instructed their Representative at Sophia to insist upon the faithful execution of the Treaty stipulations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 466.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 441.) *Foreign Office, July 21, 1880.*
Sir,

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government concur in Baron Haymerle's views as to the Porte's answer to the identic note respecting the Montenegrin frontier, as reported in your telegram No. 106 of the 19th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 467.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 454.) *Foreign Office, July 21, 1880.*

Sir,

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires has communicated to me the telegram from Baron Haymerle, of which a copy is inclosed,* stating that the Austrian Government considers the claim of Roumania to enjoy the same privileges in Bulgaria, in regard to Consular jurisdiction, as other Powers, to be well founded; and that he had instructed the Austrian Representative at Sophia to remonstrate against the action of the Bulgarian Government in the matter, and to insist on the stipulations of Articles VIII and L of the Treaty of Berlin being faithfully carried out.

I informed M. de Hengelmüller that I had received a communication on the subject from the Roumanian Envoy; that I was having the matter examined, and if the result was what I expected, the course of Her Majesty's Government would be of the same nature as that of the Austro-Hungarian Government.

Copies of the correspondence which has passed with M. Callimaki-Catargi are inclosed for your Excellency's information, from which you will see that Mr. Lascelles has been instructed to support the representations of the Roumanian Agent at Sophia against the proceedings of the Bulgarian Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 468.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 974.) *Foreign Office, July 21, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE received Lord Lyons' despatch No. 588 of the 11th July, forwarding copies of his Excellency's communications to the French Government respecting the suggested interference of the Powers with a view to settle the Montenegrin Frontier question, and I have to state to you that Lord Lyons' action in this matter is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 469.

Earl Granville to M. Callimaki Catargi.

Foreign Office, July 21, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

I HAVE had under my consideration the note which you did me the honour of addressing to me on the 14th instant in regard to the refusal of the Bulgarian Government to recognize the right of Roumania to Consular jurisdiction over Roumanian subjects in the Principality. Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the Article L of the Treaty of Berlin, taken in conjunction with the last paragraph of Article VIII, is favourable to the claim of Roumania, and I have accordingly instructed Her Majesty's Agent at Sophia to support the representations which the Roumanian Representative has been instructed to make on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* July 14.

No. 470.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received July 22.)

(Political.)

My Lord,

Therapia, June 12, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch, with its inclosure, which I have addressed to Mr. Goschen, relative to the state of affairs in Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 470.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Goschen.

Sir,

Therapia, June 11, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Excellency, extract from a letter which I received yesterday evening from Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth, calling my attention to the bad state of affairs in Thessaly, and in particular to the arbitrary and corrupt proceedings of the Military Tribunal of Larissa, the capital of that province.

Mr. Longworth gives an instance of the spiteful and oppressive manner in which the President of the Tribunal, Mahmoud Bey, makes use of his extensive powers, and I venture respectfully to suggest to your Excellency that the Porte should be moved to take notice of this case, and replace Mahmoud Bey by a more efficient and trustworthy officer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 470.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Consul-General Blunt.

(Extract.)

Larissa, June 2, 1880.

YOUR visit to Constantinople is most opportune, for matters in Thessaly are becoming daily worse, and I have no hopes of seeing an improvement unless you draw serious attention there to the unsatisfactory condition of this province.

The first and foremost matter is the one I shall this day make the object of my letter to you.

It amounts simply to this, that the members of the Court-martial are conducting themselves in a most arbitrary manner, and that with them now gross injustice is the order of the day. I know for certain that they are constantly receiving bribes, although I have not been able to collect sufficient proof that the President himself, Mahmoud Bey, accepts such payments with his own hands. Be this as it may, however, he is responsible for those under him, and his immediate removal is of absolute necessity.

I told him clearly that I shall write to you about it, and he told me, write.

I really believe all this will result in very serious complications, and the Porte will suffer for it before long, for Turks, Christians, and Jews combine together in daily complaining to me against him.

He has not got a man in the place, except his superiors, who is ready to say a kind word for him; he is detested and feared, for he has full power in his hands, and he has been exercising it latterly in a most unscrupulous manner.

I have spoken about his conduct several times to his superiors. I have also spoken to him, but to no purpose. There is now no doubt that he has been a wolf in sheep's clothing; there is also no doubt that ever since the Milies and Vizitcha affair he has been steadily trying to run down the advice and opinion I give to those above him.

During the last two weeks his audacity has reached an intolerable height. He has actually exiled, and I believe through mere spite to me, some four or five prisoners, whose friends appealed to this Consulate on their behalf, without scarcely examining them at all. I happily had time last week, owing to the steamer from Europe being late, to collect proofs of the innocence of two of these unfortunate prisoners, and to insist on the Mushir bringing them back from Volo. This has been effected, they were examined, found innocent, and released.

I now dare not make any representations in favour of prisoners for fear of doing them more harm than good; and consequently their only alternative is money. You can easily imagine how hard and insupportable this must be to bear, for the present condition of the people is that of abject poverty.

Moreover, I should state that Mahmoud Bey persuaded those above him that those who are engaged by me to attend to such work (which I have not failed to conduct in a strictly friendly spirit) receive bribes from Turkish, Jewish, and Christian applicants for assistance at this Consulate. He accused Mustapha Effendi and Mallush Agha particularly of such conduct; and Selami Pasha and Sheriff Pasha mentioned it before others to Mustapha Effendi in a most disagreeable manner. I therefore called the next day (Monday last) on the Mushir, and told him that it had come to my knowledge that two or three of his superior officers had expressed in the Hekumet the opinion that persons employed by me receive bribes for the work they have to do.

I demanded of him to call before us whoever these officers may be in order to prove the assertions they made, telling him at the same time that if sufficient condemnatory evidence is produced against those engaged by me I shall at once dismiss them, and prohibit their entering again the Consulate.

They all, and especially Selami Pasha, tried to assure me that it must be a mistake, but I insisted that the matter should first be examined before being thus put aside, as it affects the honour of the Consulate. After a couple of hours of fruitless search by them, I called in Mallush Agha and asked him before them all whether he knew which of the officers had accused him of bribery. He mentioned Sheriff Pasha, who not being present was at once sent for by the Mushir and questioned on the subject. He said that he never believed Mallush Agha capable of such conduct, and maintained that he only said that such things were done by cavasses in former times.

I thought best under the circumstances to accept this as sufficient explanation, and therefore, shaking hands all round, I left them in a friendly manner.

Before concluding, I must once more come to the point, which is simply this: Mahmoud Bey must be removed from his present position here as President of the Military Tribunal, or I must leave Larissa for Volo, and let things take their course, for I cannot remain here and turn a deaf ear to the constant appeals for help.

No. 471.

M. Contostavlos to Earl Granville.—(Received July 22.)

(Confidentielle.) *Le 21 Juillet,* 1880.

My Lord,

EN adressant à votre Excellence la réponse due à sa lettre confidentielle du 15 de ce mois, je dois tout d'abord exprimer mes profonds regrets de lui en avoir causé la peine, que j'aurais été certes heureux d'épargner à votre Excellence si j'avais eu connaissance de l'avis bienveillant préalablement déjà adressé, c'est-à-dire le 8 Juillet, à son Excellence M. Tricoupi par son Excellence Mr. Corbett car, d'après les informations que je viens de recevoir de son Excellence M. Tricoupi, son Excellence Mr. Corbett lui avait déjà donné à la date mentionnée, en même temps que M. le Chargé d'Affaires de France à Athènes, les explications que j'avais eu l'honneur de demander à votre Excellence par ma lettre confidentielle du 10 du même mois.

Me trouvant maintenant en connaissance de l'opinion y relative de votre Excellence, je n'ai qu'à l'en remercier et à la prier en même temps de croire aux sentiments de la plus profonde reconnaissance de la part de mon Gouvernement pour la généreuse bonté dont votre Excellence vient de lui donner un nouveau témoignage en cette occasion. Seulement comme dans la communication faite par son Excellence Mr. Corbett, le moment de la mobilisation de l'armée Grecque, et par conséquent de la convocation de la Chambre, s'indique comme devant être remis non-seulement jusqu'à la réponse de la Sublime Porte à la communication de la décision de Berlin, mais aussi jusqu'à la prise en considération de cette réponse par les Grandes Puissances, tandis que d'après la lettre de votre Excellence à moi, en date du 15 Juillet, le sens du conseil donné, de nous abstenir de toute démonstration hostile contre la Turquie, se trouve borné jusqu'à la réponse mentionnée de cette Puissance, j'ose me permettre la conjecture que l'opinion de votre Excellence se rapporte de préférence à ce dernier délai, comme tout-à-fait conforme à l'opinion du Gouvernement Français et d'une date plus récente. J'espère d'ailleurs que votre Excellence ne verra dans ces considérations que la preuve du désir dont mon Gouvernement est animé de ne rien tenter en dehors de la haute approbation de votre Excellence.

Venant maintenant à répondre à la question posée dans la lettre de votre Excellence,

si dans l'opinion de mon Gouvernement, l'exécution des mesures dont il s'agit, le rendrait capable d'occuper la nouvelle frontière en cas de refus de la Turquie de la lui céder, j'ai l'honneur de soumettre à votre Excellence l'observation que mon Gouvernement n'avait jamais pu penser à une telle alternative de la guerre ouverte contre la Turquie, mais qu'il avait songé tout simplement à faire tout ce qui dépendrait de lui pour se trouver en état de maîtriser de ses propres forces déjà, et le plus tôt possible, les événements que la mauvaise volonté de la Porte provoquerait à la dérobée sur les lieux.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) CONTOSTAVLOS.

No. 472.

M. Contostavlos to Earl Granville.—(Received July 22.)

My Lord, *Ce Jeudi, le 22 Juillet,* 1880.

M'E référant à mes représentations verbales, attestées par des rapports des Agents du Gouvernement Hellénique en Epire et en Thessalie, sur les menées de la Sublime Porte, je m'empresse de lui envoyer ci-jointe une communication de son Excellence le Président du Conseil et Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, M. Tricoupi, en date de 28 Juin / 10 Juillet sur les susdits menées de la Porte, par rapport surtout aux Albanais.

En attirant la sérieuse attention de votre Excellence sur les dangers surtout qui en découlent pour la sûreté elle-même des Chrétiens de ces contrées, j'ai l'honneur de la prier de vouloir bien agréer, &c.

(Signé) CONTOSTAVLOS.

Inclosure in No. 472.

M. Tricoupi to M. Contostavlos.

M. le Ministre, *Athènes, le* 28 Juin / 10 Juillet, 1880.

FAISANT suite à mes précédentes dépêches, je m'empresse de vous communiquer les renseignements qui viennent de me parvenir sur les menées de la Porte par rapport aux Albanais.

Pour s'assurer leur coopération le Gouvernement Ottoman n'a pas hésité de recruter même parmi les Albanais qui sont détenus dans les prisons pour crimes. Une Commission a été instituée à Stamboul sous la Présidence de Veïssal Bey, frère d'Abédine Pacha. Elle a ouvert des listes dans lesquelles tous les Albanais Musulmans sont priés de s'inscrire. La Commission a déjà adressé une requête au Sultan pour demander la mise en liberté de tous les Albanais criminels, et il paraît que c'est à la suite de cette requête qu'on a procédé aux enrôlements dont nous venons de parler.

Tout le littoral depuis Calamas jusqu'à Bouthroto est gardé par des Albanais Musulmans. On a cherché à faire entrer aussi des Chrétiens dans la ligne Albanaise, mais ces offres ont été repoussées.

Les Musulmans sont tous armés en Epire et en Thessalie, et des envois d'armes et d'argent leur arrivent du Palais même du Sultan, dont l'entourage compte un grand nombre d'Albanais.

Les émissaires de la Porte ne se font pas faute d'exciter le fanatisme des Musulmans qui sont armés, ainsi que nous venons de la dire, tandis que les Chrétiens n'ont pas d'armes. Des massacres et des pillages sont à craindre.

Veuillez communiquer ces renseignements au Cabinet auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité, et attirer surtout son attention sur l'éventualité que nous venons de signaler.

Veuiller, &c.

(Signé) CH. TRICOUPI.

No. 473.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 22, 11 A.M.)

(No. 54.) *Scutari, July 21, 1880, 7 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)
BIB DODA states he has come here as his men have not yet been supplied with rifles. He is ready to return to the front [? frontier] as soon as these are forthcoming. Fighting is reported to have occurred last night near Podgoritza: result not yet known.
(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 474.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 22, 9 A.M.)

(No. 134. Secret.) *Therapia, July 21, 1880, 11 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)
YOUR telegram No. 289.
Have not the assurances given by the Albanian Chiefs to Mr. Green been falsified by events?
I fear his unalterable conviction in the expediency and practicability of his own scheme somewhat warps his judgment, and he judges events as they go for or against his plan. I gather from his own telegrams and despatches that he has been several times misled by the Albanian Chiefs as to their intentions. The reports received from most other independent sources are that the Albanians mean mischief in any case, whatever Porte may decide, and it is quite natural that the religious feeling as to surrendering Mussulmans of Dulcigno is as strong as political feeling in favour of retaining Roman Catholic mountaineers. Mr. Green says truly, in his telegram No. 51 (if it has been correctly decyphered), that Porte must see it is of vital importance to Austria that the Roman Catholic mountaineers should remain intact, but I fail to see why this argument should tell on the Porte or on the Albanian Mussulmans.

No. 475.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 22, 5·20 P.M.)

(No. 135.) *Therapia, July 22, 1880, 4 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)
YOUR telegram No. 207.
I have been inquiring about Turkish navy; it is in a wretched condition, ships only half manned; no stores, and everything out of order.
I will collect information as instructed.

No. 476.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 22, 9 P.M.)

(No. 136. Secret.) *Therapia, July 22, 1880, 4 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to Captain Sale's Report just received, dated the 6th July, I consider his suggestion that the Albanians should be informed that if they oppose annexation to Greece they would be tolerably certain to have their estates confiscated to be absolutely inadmissible, and even unworthy. I submit we could not go one inch beyond hint already given as to less consideration being shown in the way of enacting absolute guarantee if there is armed resistance than if the cession is peaceably accepted. The whole of his plan for coercing an unwilling population to accept an annexation, of which they cannot see the justice, by threatening them with confiscation of private property and with further loss of territory and contraction of boundaries, coupled with the hint that rashness on their part might even ensure destruction of their mosques, seems exceedingly compromising, and I trust that his suggestion that an authorized Agent of the British Government should hold such language to the Albanian leaders, or that a reply in this sense be sent in answer to their telegrams, may receive no consideration. I venture to telegraph my opinion, as I

see Captain Sale suggests that if it were thought desirable he could resume his relations with leading men at Janina. I could not defend his action here if he acted up to the spirit of his Report.

No. 477.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 114.) *St. Petersburgh, July 22, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to my telegram No. 112 of yesterday, I have received the official note assenting to the three points.

No. 478.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 401.) *Foreign Office, July 22, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to your telegram No. 112, you will find the answers received from other Powers as to simultaneous communication respecting Montenegro in the telegrams repeated to you.

No. 479.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 22, 1 P.M.)

(No. 89.) *Rome, July 22, 1880, noon.*
(Telegraphic.)
ITALIAN Government have no objection to publication of Protocol of Berlin Conference and Reports of Technical Commission.

No. 480.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 22, 9 P.M.)

(No. 90.) *Rome, July 22, 1880, 6·45 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to your telegram No. 359, I can safely state that since failure of the April Agreement Turkish Minister has not endeavoured to press any compromise whatever on Italian Government. His communications have been limited to official Circulars and suchlike.

No. 481.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 380.) *Foreign Office, July 22, 1880, 5·30 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to your telegram No. 108 of yesterday, ask Austrian Government whether they will agree to instruct their Representative at Constantinople to concert with his colleagues to prepare following collective note:—
After acknowledging receipt of Turkish note of the 15th instant, the Governments represented by the Undersigned regret that they cannot accept these proposals as satisfactory. They have learned that the Porte has sent reinforcements of soldiers and supplies to the Montenegro frontier, and they assume that these have been sent with the intention of faithfully carrying out its engagements. They cannot consent that the system of delay which has hitherto been practised, and which has led to the present situation, should be continued, and they must call upon the Porte to bring it to a close.
They believe that it would be more in the interest of the Porte at once to carry out the proposal contained in their note of the 26th ultimo for the cession of the district comprising Dulcigno and the portion of the right bank extending to the mouth of the Boyana, and they strongly recommend the Porte to do so as that which would be most

advantageous to all parties. If, however, the Turkish Government prefer to adhere to the arrangement to which they are pledged, they must understand that unless the Porte can carry out the April Agreement within three weeks from the date of this note, the Porte will be expected to join the Powers who were parties to the Treaty of Berlin in assisting the Prince of Montenegro to take possession by force of the Dulcigno district under the alternative plan.

No. 482.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 264. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, July 22, 1880.

Sir,

IN considering the present position of the Greek frontier question, Her Majesty's Government are deeply impressed with the serious nature of the crisis that is impending, and the importance to the Sultan's dynasty and Empire of the decision which His Majesty is called upon to take.

They can well understand the Sultan's reluctance to make the sacrifices that are required of him, and that if those sacrifices must be made, he should prefer to make them only in deference to the actual exercise of force by the Powers, rather than appear voluntarily to surrender territory to which His Majesty and his Mussulman subjects attach importance.

But the gravity of the situation in respect of the Sultan's position and the safety of the Ottoman Empire makes it imperative that His Majesty should see things clearly as they are.

A moral collision with Europe, still more a demonstration of forcible measures, and most of all the application of force by the united Powers, would in all probability be the signal for outbreaks on either side of the Balkans, with the view of accomplishing the union of Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria. It is a matter of almost certain calculation that insurrectionary movements of this nature would at once spread to Macedonia. There is, indeed, no security that they would be confined to European Turkey, and that disorders of a serious character would not ensue in Syria and Arabia, and possibly in other parts of Turkey in Asia.

Her Majesty's Government, and, as they have been able to ascertain, most of the leading statesmen of Europe, believe that a state of affairs might thus be produced which, in combination with the difficulties with Greece and Montenegro, and in the exhausted state of the resources of Turkey, would prove absolutely disastrous to the Porte. It is for this reason, and because delay seemed to them only the more surely to be bringing matters to such a conjuncture, that they have joined in earnestly pressing forward the settlement of the questions still left open under the Treaty of Berlin. They recognize fully the Sultan's political ability, and knowing the extent to which the conduct of affairs rests in his hands, they feel that it is to His Majesty that Europe must look to take a resolution, which, though painful to him personally, is still the best for the general security of his Empire.

They entertain no doubt that His Majesty's own subjects, as well as the European Powers, would recognize the spirit of enlightened self-sacrifice which had dictated such a decision, and they would deeply regret that His Majesty should render himself morally responsible for the misery and confusion to which a contrary course threatens to lead.

These are considerations which will not have escaped your own observation, but it may be useful to you that they should be in your hands as expressing the convictions upon which the action of Her Majesty's Government has been based, and I have consequently placed them on record in this despatch, in order that you may have full authority to use such arguments to the Sultan's advisers, or to His Majesty, whenever, in your judgment, a good opportunity may occur.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 483.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 266.)
Foreign Office, July 22, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received from the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires the accompanying telegraphic communication from his Government,* expressing their desire that the Commission appointed to define the boundaries of Montenegro should resume its labours in those districts which are not included in the present controversy.

Your Excellency will perceive from a note left with me by the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, of which I inclose a copy,† that the Austrian Government is of opinion that the tracing of the north-eastern boundaries of the Principality should be delayed until the conclusion of the arrangements in progress with regard to the other portions of the frontier, and Her Majesty's Government concur with that of Austria in their view of the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 484.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 268.)
Foreign Office, July 22, 1880.

Sir,

I APPROVE the instruction issued by your Excellency to Colonel Wilson previous to his departure on an inquiry into the condition of the Mussulman and Greek populations in Eastern Roumelia, of which a copy was inclosed in your Excellency's despatch No. 116 of the 6th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 485.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 270.)
Foreign Office, July 22, 1880.

Sir,

AT an interview with the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires on the 16th instant he read to me the reply of the Porte to the last note of the Ambassadors on the Montenegrin question. Your Excellency has already received it from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, as reported in your telegram No. 123 of the same day.

Musurus Bey, who left a copy of the note with me, insisted upon the conciliatory nature of the proposal which his Government puts forward, and expressed a strong desire that Her Majesty's Government should give it their favourable consideration. I replied that for the reasons I had already given on previous occasions I could not discuss the matter with him, but I did not withhold my opinion that the character of the reply was not satisfactory.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 486.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 271.)
Foreign Office, July 22, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE to call your Excellency's attention to my despatch No. 334 of the 20th May last, addressed to Sir H. Layard, instructing him to urge the Porte to take measures for the repression of brigandage, and to remind it that Her Majesty's Government were not prepared to liberate it from the engagement by which it undertook to repay the money which this country had been compelled to advance in order to save Colonel Synge's life.

* No. 267. † No. 268.

No reply has been received to this despatch, and it may be inferred that the Turkish Government have not hitherto come forward with any suggestion for fulfilling their obligation. The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have, however, inquired what steps have been taken for recovering the sum advanced, and I have to request that your Excellency will remind the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, in the terms of my despatch alluded to above, that the matter is not one which Her Majesty's Government are willing to set aside.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 487.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 453.) *Foreign Office, July 22, 1880.*

Sir,

IT is the desire of Her Majesty's Government that your Excellency should communicate to the Austro-Hungarian Government the inclosed draft of a collective note which they propose the Powers should address to the Porte,* and should inquire whether they are willing to instruct their Representative at Constantinople to concert with his colleagues as to the presentation of a note in these terms.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 488.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 458.) *Foreign Office, July 22, 1880.*

Sir,

I TOLD the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires this afternoon that I have been acting in the most unreserved manner with the Austrian Government on the Montenegrin question, have consulted them on each step, and have only taken any initiative when requested by them to do so.

That some questions have been asked about this sort of preference which I have given to Austria, but that we had arrived at a conclusion in which Baron Haymerle seemed thoroughly to agree, and which promised to have a useful effect upon the Montenegrin question, and also upon the other points connected with the Berlin Treaty.

At the last moment the French Government had made some objections (1) as to joining in any naval demonstration at all in regard to the Montenegrin question (which was got over); and (2) that it could only do so after an assurance had been given by all the Powers, that they would do the same when the occasion occurred with regard to the Greek frontier.

This condition, whatever the reason might be which prompted the French Government to make it, was in itself a point to which no reasonable objection could be made except on the score of the great inconvenience of delay. England, Russia, and Italy have given the required assurance. Germany, it may be assumed, will do so, as Prince Bismarck stated at the time, through Count Münster, that although he was unwilling to send a ship to Dulcigno, yet that he was prepared to do so for the Greek frontier, and he has since sent me a positive assurance that he was ready to concur with all the other Powers in any steps which seemed necessary to carry out the consequences of the Berlin Treaty and of the two Conferences.

It had appeared to me unnecessary that the Austrian Government should have raised a question as to the mode of settling the terms of the collective note about Montenegro, the substance of which had been already agreed to. The matter seemed to me of minor importance, and to create an uncalled-for delay; but I have endeavoured to meet this point according to the wish of Austria. To-day, however, I had received a message from your Excellency, in which you say that, though the Austrian Government agree in the general principles of the French demand, they can make no declaration until they have more minutely considered the proposal in all its bearings.

This delay seems most unfortunate. The Turks have already been aware that some such proposal is under discussion. Delay will confirm them in the belief that the Powers

* See No. 481, beginning at the words "After acknowledging, &c."

cannot act together, besides giving them time for continuing their intrigues in Albania. I told Chevalier Heugelmüller that I wished to know whether the Austrian Government has changed its mind on the subject, and desires to delay our progress. If such should be the case, I should prefer knowing at once the position in which I am placed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 489.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 350.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, July 22, 1880.*

PRINCE LOBANOW spoke to me again yesterday on the subject of the reports as to the recent arrival of Russian officers and non-commissioned officers in Bulgaria and the importation of arms from Russia into the Principality.

His Excellency said that the number of Russian officers employed in Bulgaria ha diminished. The non-commissioned officers had been sent to replace those who had left, and the Russian non-commissioned officers in the Bulgarian service were not quite so numerous as they had previously been.

With regard to arms, he said that 8,000 rifles, of a good modern pattern, had, at the request of the Prince, been sold to Bulgaria by the Russian Government, with an arrangement that the payment for them should be spread over a certain number of years. The other muskets which had been left in Bulgaria by the Russians were of an old pattern.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 490.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 351.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, July 22, 1880.*

PRINCE LOBANOW, in the course of conversation yesterday, stated that instructions had been sent to the Russian Consul-General at Philippopoli to maintain the most conciliatory attitude in regard to Colonel Wilson's mission to report on the treatment of the Mussulman and Greek populations by the Bulgarians; but he added that the Russian Government continued to hope that Colonel Wilson would do nothing to exasperate the populations of different religions against each other.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 491.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 23.)

(No. 110.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 23, 1880.*

NAVAL demonstration.

If all the Powers consent to the above, Austrian Government are ready to declare, according to the wish of the French Government, that the mode of proceeding proposed by Her Majesty's Government in regard to Montenegro may be equally applied to the settlement of the Greek Frontier question.

No. 492.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received July 23, 1 P.M.)

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, July 23, 1880, 11 A.M.*

AS the Commission is advancing very rapidly, I shall be glad to know as soon as possible if the Government have any special instructions for me incidental to the application of the draft of Statute to Albania or any particular portions of that country.

No. 493.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 23.*)

(No. 28.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, July 23, 1880.*

I THINK that Commissioners could, in regard to Albania, follow provisions of the Lebanon Règlement of the 9th June, 1861, and recommend a certain division of the country into provinces.

I would prefer that mentioned in my despatch No. 57, except as regards Prisrend and Dibra, which should go with North-east Albania. The foundation will thus be laid for ultimately making a large Albania as opportunity arises. The above recommendation would in no manner exceed the powers of the Commission. Upper Albania, between Scutari and Diakova, could have a few special provisions, and Mirdite privileges would be reserved.

No. 494.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 382.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 23, 1880.*

MAKE following alteration in my No. 431, which went to you by messenger last night:—

Cancel concluding words, "will be ready to assent to it."

Substitute "approving of its principle, will be ready to consider its terms."

Amended despatch will be sent next week.

No. 495.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 23, 4·50 P.M.*)

(No. 55.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, July 23, 1880, 10·30 A.M.*

ALBANIAN Commissioners from Constantinople arrived here yesterday afternoon.

Skirmishing reported to be still going on near Podgoritza.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 496.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 311. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 23, 1880, 4·30 P.M.*

IN reply to your No. 136, Secret, there is no intention of sending Captain Sale to Janina or of menacing the Albanians. It will probably be necessary to come to terms with them if the use of force is to be avoided, and the offer of a guarantee of their property and boundaries is likely to have the best effect.

Can you suggest anything further which would tend to make the cession of territory acceptable to them?

No. 497.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 312.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 23, 1880, 7·20 P.M.*

YOURS No. 133.

There will be no objection to your speaking openly as to the steps we are taking to guarantee Mussulman property in districts ceded to Greece, but you should take care to intimate that the guarantee depends on the acquiescence of the Mussulmans.

No. 498.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 23, 10·45 P.M.*)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, July 23, 1880, 11·43 A.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 2 of the 21st instant, I have informed M. Zancoff that you have authorized me to support remonstrance of Roumanian Agent against refusal of Bulgarian Government to recognize rights of Roumania to Consular jurisdiction.

His Excellency is much disappointed at the decision of Her Majesty's Government, which he says will limit the independence and prevent the development of Bulgaria, and force her to apply to one or other of the Great Powers respecting [?] questions that may arise with any of the neighbouring States.

No. 499.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 23.*)

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, July 23, 1880, 7·5 P.M.*

I HAVE sent following to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople:—

"M. Zancoff presumes that complaints mentioned in your telegram of yesterday must refer to affair of Aïdos, as since then nothing of a similar nature has taken place in Bulgaria. He promises to communicate Report upon that affair before long."

No. 499*.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 293. Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 23, 1880.*

IN reply to your Excellency's comments upon Captain Sale's Report of the 6th instant, I have to inform you that there is no intention on the part of Her Majesty's Government to send him to negotiate with the leading men at Janina, or to use any menacing language to the Albanians with a view to induce them to agree to a peaceable cession of their territory to Greece.

Her Majesty's Government believe that if the use of force is to be avoided, the offer to guarantee the Mussulman inhabitants of the districts to be ceded to Greece in the possession of their property and boundaries is likely to have the best effect in reconciling them to the execution of the Berlin Award, and if your Excellency has anything further to suggest which would tend to make it more acceptable to them, I shall be happy to give my best attention to the proposal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 500.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 294.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 23, 1880.*

IN accordance with your Excellency's suggestion as to the advisability of making known the steps which Her Majesty's Government are taking to guarantee Mussulman property in the districts which the Berlin Conference has awarded to Greece, I have informed you by telegraph that there will be no objection to mention being openly made of this matter by your Excellency, although you should take care to let it be understood that the guarantee must depend upon the acquiescence of the Mussulman landowners in the proposed transfer.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 501.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 429.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, July 23, 1880.*

BARON VON DEN BRINCKEN made a communication to me to-day as to the acceptance by Germany of the proposal for a limited naval demonstration at Dulcigno, and

of the French suggestion, that an assurance should be given that the Powers would act in the same way respecting the Greek question. This communication was precisely the same in its terms as your Excellency's telegram of to-day (No. 66).

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 502.

Earl Granville to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 399.) *Foreign Office, July 23, 1880.*

Sir,

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me on the 19th instant, and made to me the communication I had been led to expect from Sir A. Paget's telegram No. 83 as to the reluctance of the Prince of Montenegro to attempt to take possession of the Dulcigno territory, with the assistance merely of a naval demonstration by the Powers.

I stated to General Menabrea, in reply, that I considered it would still be desirable to proceed with the proposed note to the Porte; that the terms of the note gave nearly a month's delay before the occasion for the naval demonstration would arise; that the Powers might thereupon make the offer of assistance in this form to the Prince, and that if it were declined they could then consider what was the next step to take.

I added that I saw no use in discussing further modifications or counter-propositions by the Porte on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 503.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 219. Secret and Confidential.) *Athens, July 3, 1880.*

My Lord,

M. TRICOUPI informs me that he is sending to the King, by to-day's post, two Proclamations for His Majesty's signature. The first orders the calling out of the reserves and the mobilization of the army, to be effected gradually and as circumstances may require; the second convokes the Chamber for an ordinary Session not later than the 20th September, when the Mobilization Decree will be submitted to it, as required by law.

The above measures being somewhat at variance with the King's views, M. Tricoupi proposes to prepare His Majesty, by telegraph two days hence, for the receipt of the despatches, and to request his signature to the Proclamations in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 504.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 221. Secret.) *Athens, July 6, 1880.*

My Lord,

INFORMATION has reached this Government that the Porte is taking active measures to encourage and incite the Albanians to oppose any cession of their territory to Greece.

M. Tricoupi read to me to-day an address issued confidentially to the Albanian League by Abédine Pasha, of which a copy had been secretly received from the Palace of the Sultan. The address urges the members of the League to resist the cession of any portion of their Albania to foreigners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 505.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 225.) *Athens, July 8, 1880.*

My Lord,

IN obedience to the instructions conveyed in your Lordship's telegram No. 14 of yesterday's date, I spoke to M. Tricoupi in the sense therein indicated.

His Excellency informed me, in reply, that, in deference to the counsels of England and France, he would undertake to postpone publishing the Proclamation for the mobilization of the army until an answer had been received to the communication addressed to the Turkish Government. He observed, however, that his own opinion was opposed to such a course, as he was in a position to look at the matter in a different light from that in which it was viewed at Constantinople; and that he considered the Proclamation might have been couched in such language as to avoid all appearance of a wish to intimidate, which he thought unadvisable at present. The early issue of the Proclamation is required in order to retain in the army drilled men who are on the point of completing their term of service.

As soon as the answer of the Porte has been made public, the Greek Government will at once request the advice of the Western Powers, anticipating that they will adopt a view favourable to this country.

M. Tricoupi telegraphed to the King to-day, informing His Majesty that he did not propose to act on the telegram which he had asked for consenting to the proposed arrangement, but begging him to sign the Proclamation, in order that it might be in readiness when required.

My French colleague has spoken to the Prime Minister in the above sense. The German Chargé d'Affaires, whom M. Ternaux Compans was instructed to ask to join in our representations, told us he had received no instructions in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 506.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 226.) *Athens, July 13, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 87 of the 2nd instant, M. Tricoupi has requested me to convey to Her Majesty's Government the thanks of the Hellenic Government for the attentions shown to M. Brailas' representations by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin, and their acknowledgment of the kind manner in which he was received by Lord Odo Russell.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 507.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 227.) *Athens, July 13, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 of yesterday's date.

As I have only received the draft of identic note which Lord Odo Russell inclosed to your Lordship in his despatch No. 65, Conference, of the 29th ultimo, and your Lordship in the telegrams above mentioned speaks of a collective note, I telegraphed to-day to your Lordship to ask if the collective note, which it appears is to be presented simultaneously at Constantinople and Athens, is to be couched in the terms of the identic note above mentioned.

I have also the honour to observe that the final award of the late Conference at Berlin has not yet been communicated to me, and that I have only received the Protocols from No. 1 to No. 4, inclusive, which were inclosed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 90 of the 2nd instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 508.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 228. Secret.)
Athens, July 13, 1880.

My Lord,

M. TRICOUPI told me to-day that he was afraid the King might raise difficulties to signing the Proclamation for calling out the reserves, and added that he considered it imperative that it should be signed at once, to be made use of when necessary. He at the same time expressed his disapproval of the visits which the King is now paying to various European Courts. His Majesty looks upon them as in the interests of the Greek cause, but they are regarded by the nation as injurious to his Royal dignity, with the exception of that paid to the Court of London, which is favourably viewed.

M. Tricoupi observed, in conclusion, that unless His Majesty consented to be guided by his counsels, he was determined to tender his resignation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 509.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 229. Confidential.)
Athens, July 13, 1880.

My Lord,

M. TRICOUPI told me to-day that the Greek Government had received overtures from three battalions of the regular Ottoman army ("Nizam") quartered in Thessaly to desert with their officers and arms. These troops are described as being in a starving condition, and without any pay for many months.

The Government has declined their services at present, at all events until hostilities may have commenced. They have also refused to enrol numerous Greeks inhabiting Constantinople, Smyrna, Alexandria, and other Turkish cities, who have offered their services, with the exception of those men who have served, and who would be liable to serve again when the reserves are called out.

Volunteers continue to present themselves in considerable numbers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 510.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 230.)
Athens, July 14, 1880.

My Lord,

MY colleagues are desirous to know how soon I may expect to receive the text of the proposed collective note. As regards some of them, they have been authorized by their Governments to accept the text which may have reached any one of their colleagues. I have, therefore, telegraphed to your Lordship to know if I am at liberty to adopt a similar course, or if I should await the arrival of the text of the note and award.

The draft forwarded to your Lordship by Lord Odo Russell, and communicated to me in your despatch No. 90, is not complete.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 511.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 232.)
Athens, July 14, 1880.

My Lord,

REFERRING to my despatch No. 200 of the 16th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that General Thomasi has been appointed by the French Minister of War, at the request of the Greek Government, to proceed to this country for the purpose of reorganizing the army. He will be accompanied by several superior officers, who will be charged to superintend the reorganizing and discipline of the different branches of the service.

In answer to my inquiry, M. Tricoupi told me that none of these officers would hold any active command in the army if hostilities should break out with Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 512.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 233.)
Athens, July 14, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Greek Government have concluded at Paris a temporary loan of 15,000,000 fr. on Exchequer Bills at nine and twelve months' date. The money will remain in France to pay for the military stores and equipments which the Government have ordered there.

In addition to the above-mentioned amount, M. Tricoupi told me to-day that the Government had 17,000,000 fr. remaining of the internal loan lately concluded; altogether, he said, the Government had in hand for military purposes more than 30,000,000 fr.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 513.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 234.)
Athens, July 14, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE communicated to M. Tricoupi the substance of your Lordship's despatch No. 83 of the 28th ultimo.

His Excellency, with reference to the different points which Her Majesty's Government consider it would be advisable to mention in case a Treaty arrangement similar to that signed at Constantinople on the 21st July, 1832, should be found necessary to record the rectification of the Continental limits of Greece, said:—

1. The Greek Government had no objection to engage to assure to the populations to be ceded the religious liberty granted by the Treaty of Berlin to the inhabitants of the liberated provinces, the more so, as in principle it was already enjoyed by the present subjects of the King.

2. The Greek Government would willingly engage that the rights of property as mentioned in your Lordship's despatch would be fully secured.

3. That the property *bond fide* of the State and of religious foundations should be secured on the same principle and procedure which governed the same matter in the provinces ceded by the Porte, viz., Servia, Montenegro, and Roumania.

4. That a sufficiently long term should be allowed for persons desiring to retain their Turkish nationality to quit the territory and dispose of their property, or lease it or have it administered through agents.

5. That there should be no interference with the person or property of the inhabitants of the ceded territory on account of political acts previous to the union: no retrospect into the past political conduct of individuals.

6. That all Mussulmans should be entitled to the full enjoyment of the same civil and political rights and admission to public employment, functions, and honours, and the exercise of the various professions and industries throughout the kingdom as the present subjects of the Crown.

7. With regard to the share of the public debt to be borne by Greece, M. Tricoupi said that, although by the Treaty of Berlin no share of the public debt of Turkey had been apportioned to those parts of the Dobrudscha made over to Roumania, or to Bosnia and Herzegovina ceded to Austria, and, although Greece had accepted and was paying interest on the old debt of 1824 and 1825, incurred on account of the provinces now to be ceded to Greece, this country would make no objection to take their share of the Turkish debt for Epirus and Thessaly, it being calculated in the same manner as the share of the Turkish debt apportioned to Servia and Montenegro on account of the districts ceded to those countries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 514.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 236.) *Athens, July 15, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Lordship's despatch No. 97.

Except my Russian and German colleagues, all the Representatives of the Great Powers at Athens are authorized to sign the collective note.

The first-named has instructions to act as his German colleague does, but the latter has not received instructions on the subject or a copy of the identic note, although he has been told to expect them by post.

My French colleague and I with difficulty persuaded him to telegraph to Berlin for permission to sign text of which we are in possession.

The French Government are very anxious that the note should be presented without delay here and at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 515.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 238.) *Athens, July 15, 1880.*

My Lord,

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires has been ordered by his Government to send home a detailed report of the state of military preparation of Greece, and of the amount of force it would be in a position to put into the field in case of hostilities with Turkey.

I am endeavouring to obtain reliable information on the same subject, but it is extremely difficult to do so.

I think it is impossible that this country can be in a position to put a well-appointed army into the field under three or four months, even if the reserves are called out.

The annual contingent of men who have attained the age of 21 years and are liable now to serve in the army amounts on paper to about 11,000 men, of which one-half, according to law, ought to begin to serve at once. The Government, however, have determined to enrol the whole number, and expect that about two-thirds will be available at once.

They look for a Bill of Indemnity from the Chamber approving their having done so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 516.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 239. Secret.) *Athens, July 15, 1880.*

My Lord,

M. TRICOUPI tells me that he has heard nothing lately from the King, and is without information as to His Majesty's intentions respecting the signature of the Proclamation for the mobilization of the army. He is convinced of the great importance of making immediate preparations for placing the military forces of the country in a position to insure the occupation of the provinces to be ceded, and he intends to write by to-day's post to His Majesty, impressing upon him the importance of a complete harmony of views between himself and his Minister.

Should His Majesty decline to adopt his counsels, M. Tricoupi has made up his mind to resign his post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 517.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 197. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, July 8, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch addressed by me this day to Mr. Goschen on the subject of my conduct in the recently proposed frontier arrangement in the direction of Dulcigno.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 517.

Mr. Kirby Green to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Scutari, July 8, 1880.*

AS from your Excellency's telegram of the 30th instant I infer that in many quarters the proposal of an exchange of territory on the side of Dulcigno is held to be more advantageous for Montenegro than for Turkey, and as your Excellency states that I have throughout paid more attention to what would be accepted or rejected by Montenegro or North Albania than what the Porte would reject, I trust your Excellency will pardon me furnishing you with a few particulars of what had been my action in the matter prior to your Excellency's arrival in Constantinople.

The first mention of an exchange of Gusinjé appears in my despatch of the 15th February, 1879, and although I then and subsequently assisted the Turkish authorities in bringing forward the question, still, I each time expressed my opinion that it would be better for the Porte to adhere strictly to the frontiers defined by the Treaty of Berlin, and which I have always been of opinion that the Turkish Government could have surrendered had it wished to do so.

When early this year Sir Henry Layard informed me that Count Corti had been induced to become the intermediary for securing an exchange in the direction of Podgoritza, and which afterwards was embodied in the Protocol of the 18th April, I telegraphed to his Excellency on the 3rd February that I believed the proposal could only complicate affairs, and that the line suggested encroached considerably on the Roman Catholic mountains, and would be probably resisted by the natives.

In my despatch of the 12th February to Lord Salisbury, I detailed the difficulties in the way of the proposed arrangement, and once again urged a strict adherence to the terms of the Treaty of Berlin.

As long as the negotiation for the proposed exchange remained open I did not cease to point out the difficulties to be expected, and in my despatch of the 23rd February I described to Lord Salisbury the only engagement which the Ottoman Government could possibly enter into with a prospect of fulfilling it, but here again, by my despatch of the 2nd March, I renewed my explanations to his Lordship of the advisableness of standing by the Treaty of Berlin.

As to the advantages of the Dulcigno proposal in favour of Montenegro, I can only observe that no transaction seeking to replace an acquired right can have any other basis than that of proposing some feature of superiority over that already existing; and that, although I am convinced that, both from a territorial and fiscal point, the Principality would have benefited greatly by the exchange, still, in Montenegro, the Prince and his Ministers pretended to feel strongly having to forego the commanding positions secured by the cessions of the April Protocol. Notwithstanding, however, that I admit the hollowness of the Montenegrin hesitation, I think there can be no doubt that the abandonment of Dulcigno would have in no way weakened the position of North Albania, and that, therefore, this fact ought not to be overlooked as one of the features of the proposal favourable to the Porte.

In perusing my past correspondence on the Albano-Montenegrin frontier question, I cannot but accept the justness of your Excellency's reproach, that all through my reports I have merely taken account of the Montenegrin and North Albanian outlooks, but I probably fell into this error from the fear of trespassing upon ground that was not within my competence.

I have, however, always allowed that the Porte was the most important factor on this question, and the third paragraph of my despatch of the 29th May last to Lord Granville clearly shows that I never for a moment contemplated that a settlement could

be arrived at if the Turkish Government was not to be, in some way, made to yield to the wishes of the Great Powers; and in my other reports, I have always endeavoured to give the Porte an important standing here, and to convey the fact that I was persuaded that it was really responsible for all that was occurring in these regions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 518.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 24.*)

(No. 208. Political.)
Scutari, July 13, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 201 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith the copies of a note I have to-day received from Voïvoda Radonich, and of my reply to his Excellency.

I believe the Montenegrin Government, having perceived by the hostile attitude assumed yesterday by the Albanians near Podgoritza that the Porte is taking no efficacious steps to come to a peaceable settlement with the Principality, wishes to mark distinctly that it trusts for support and protection to the Great Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 518.

M. Radonich to Mr. Kirby Green.

Cettinjé, le $\frac{30 \text{ Juin}}{12 \text{ Juillet}}$, 1880.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

VOTRE lettre du 10 Juillet que je reçois à l'instant me fait craindre que ma dernière communication relative à la démarche de Khalid Bey ait donné lieu à quelque confusion. Permettez-moi, donc, d'en préciser de nouveau le sens.

Nous sommes trop reconnaissants de la bienveillante intervention des Puissances Médiatrices pour vouloir substituer en aucun cas des négociations directes au concours qu'elles ont bien voulu nous prêter.

Notre réponse au Représentant de la Turquie en est un témoignage, puisque nous nous sommes bornés à renvoyer la Porte aux Grandes Puissances, "à la décision desquelles," avons-nous dit textuellement, "cette question est abandonnée."

En ajoutant que nous ne ferions, en ce qui nous concerne, aucune objection à la solution adoptée dans l'un ou dans l'autre sens, pourvu que le mode d'exécution obtienne l'approbation des Puissances, nous n'avons en rien préjugé la question. Vous avez vu, d'ailleurs, M. le Chargé d'Affaires, par la lettre particulière qui accompagnait ma communication officielle, que nous n'avons qu'une confiance très-limitée en cette nouvelle promesse de la Porte.

Jusqu'à preuve du contraire, elle ne vaut mieux à nos yeux que les précédentes, et c'est pour cela que nous avons mis dans notre réponse les réserves qui s'y trouvent.

Nous ne voudrions pas que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique put se méprendre sur nos intentions, et nous vous prions, dans ce but, de vouloir bien, s'il était nécessaire, l'éclairer à ce sujet.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) S. RADONICH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 518.

Mr. Kirby Green to M. Radonich.

Scutari, le 13 *Juillet*, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

J'AI l'honneur d'accuser réception de la dépêche télégraphique de votre Excellence en date d'hier.

Je n'ai pas manqué de communiquer au Comte Granville, le 10 courant, que le Gouvernement Monténégrin avait répondu à Khalid Bey que, tout en ayant laissé la question de la frontière Albano-Monténégrine à la décision des Puissances, il n'avait aucune

objection à faire contre la solution de la difficulté pendante dans le sens de la Convention du 12 Avril dernier ou dans celui de la dernière proposition en faveur de Dulcigno, pourvu que le mode d'exécution serait suffisamment garantie par la Porte aux Puissances.

Aujourd'hui je me suis de nouveau empressé à télégraphier à sa Seigneurie la teneur de notre dernière communication, et d'appuyer sur le fait que le Gouvernement Monténégrin décline de négocier directement avec la Porte.

Depuis que j'ai eu l'honneur d'expédier à votre Excellence ma précitée note du 10 courant j'ai été confirmé par le Comte Granville dans l'assurance que je me suis cru autorisée de donner à votre Excellence au sujet de la satisfaction qu'éprouverait le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique si un arrangement paisible viendrait à s'effectuer de la frontière Albano-Monténégrine.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 519.

Acting Consul Lyall to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 24.*)

(No. 23. Confidential.)
Tiflis, July 14, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that Mr. Vice-Consul Gardner reports from Poti that the Russian authorities are putting in order, renewing, and improving the original fortifications of the town and harbour of Batoum.

The railway which they have been constructing communicates with the new fortified *enceinte*.

This information has been confirmed from other sources, from which I learn that the greatest disorders prevail throughout the district.

The Russian authorities on the spot so arranged matters that the first rush of speculators who arrived subsequent to its annexation, both native and foreign, were checked by an order "that no title to land purchased from the inhabitants would be recognized as valid unless the sale was effected through Government authorization and sanction."

This sanction they took care to withhold altogether for nearly two years, so that the speculators who had hurried there, finding everything exceedingly dear, and being unable to wait—wasting time and money for titles which might not be granted for years—withdrew without purchasing, and their reports prevented others from arriving. On the other hand, the Turkish inhabitants who had determined to sell their property and emigrate were completely unable to dispose of it.

The civil and military employés of Government, then forming a "ring" from which all but their intimates were carefully excluded, bought up everywhere valuable lands, tenements, and building sites at nominal prices, and are consequently in a fair way to realize very large fortunes.

The misery of the original inhabitants, both in the town and the district, is great. Many who were formerly well-to-do are reduced to beggary.

Nearly the whole Mahommedan population, consisting it is said of 10,000 families, or 60,000 souls, have determined to emigrate into Turkey, and would for the most part already have left Russian territory had not the delays and vexatious formalities which they are compelled to undergo at the hands of the Armenian Government employés, who are occupied in screwing their money and property out of them by questioning their titles, refusing them passports, and other harassing procedures, detained them.

In fact, the accounts of my informants (who talk all the languages in use well, and have witnessed on the spot the proceedings of the Russian (Armenian) officials) describe them as wholesale spoliation and extortion. It is said that a special Commission, or Court, entirely independent of, and uncontrolled by, the ordinary civil and criminal judicature of the Empire; in fact, a sort of Star Chamber, is to be instituted in each "Government" or province of Southern Russia and the Caucasus. This Court will have power to condemn any persons brought before it for political offences to Siberia, or even to death, without appeal, and its operation is, in practice, expected to extend to any one in any way obnoxious to influential people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TSCHUDI LYALL.

No. 520.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 24.*)

(Confidential.) *Corfu, July 20, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my Confidential despatch of the 13th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of two further despatches I have received this morning from Vice-Consul Onofrio of Santa Maura.

Much of what Mr. Onofrio says I am able to corroborate from what I have heard from good sources here

With regard to the Epirot Christians, I was told yesterday, by one who has much correspondence with Epirus, that the Christians, or rather a very great many of them, now say, even before the Mussulmans, that if the Great Powers send forces to carry out the decision of the late Conference it would be madness in them to resist; and that, if not, they would rather remain as they are. There is no doubt but that they are influenced, in speaking in this way, by the conviction that an attempt by the Greek Government alone to take possession of the territory that has been voted to them by the Conference would only lead to failure with great bloodshed; and these fears are greatly intensified by the flight of the numbers of Hellenes who would come under the reported call out of the reserves, and of which they are well informed. A reliable authority here yesterday told me that from Syra alone 600 had fled. From the town of Corfu alone about 150, I hear, have left.

It is my humble opinion, my Lord, that the position of the Christians of Epirus, at all events of those inland, would be most critical should Greece attempt by herself to carry out the decision of the late Conference.

I have spoken with many well-informed persons here on the subject, and they are all of my opinion.

A relative of Mithad Pasha who is employed at Prevesa, and a very temperate young man, was here this morning, and said that he feared that the Albanians are very determined to resist to the bitter end.

It is very fortunate that Mustapha Assim Pasha is at present Governor-General of Epirus, for I hear of daily proofs of his taking the most energetic measures to keep the Albanians quiet, particularly as regards the Christians, and is going about those parts of the province where his presence is most needed. From what I hear, he appears to be doing his utmost to prevent sinister treatment of the Christians in case of hostilities of any sort.

As regards the Corfiots, although exhibiting great exultation on the decision of the late Conference of Berlin, they hope to obtain possession of what has been accorded to Greece with foreign assistance alone.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 520.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Reade.

(Confidential.) *Santa Maura, July 17, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to you all that I have had occasion to gather from reliable sources during my recent visit to Prevesa, on public duties, relative to the state of affairs on to other side border.

1. The Albanian agitation continues unabated; and the determination to resist annexation to Greece is as strong as ever. The Committee of the "League" at Prevesa is in constant communication with the authorities, and it is authoritatively stated that the movement is highly condemned by the Government. Indeed, did any doubt exist on this head, the unequivocal language used by the Vali on Sunday last (11th instant), in the presence of a number of influential Mahommedans, who went to greet him on his arrival from Janina, would [illegible] convince any doubtful mind that while on the one hand the Ottoman Government stimulates resistance, it is, on the other, at least up to the present moment, determined not to surrender to the decision of Europe. The impression prevailing in the Turkish official mind at Prevesa is, that the European concert will never go the length of provoking a European war for the sake of Greece; and in this impression, whatever its merit, lies the secret of the present attitude of the Turks on the other side of the border. Moreover, the idea that both Austria and Italy are somehow averse

to the cession of Epirus to Greece is now predominant among Christians, Turks, and Albanians alike, and though, perhaps, the Consular Agents of those two Powers at Prevesa may have given cause for this idea to take root, yet it is a cause of encouragement to the elements of resistance to Greece, who indulge the hope that resistance such as that offered by the Northern Albanians to the Montenegrins would ultimately bring about a compromise satisfactory to Albanian interests in Epirus. But however much the Porte may eventually surrender to the will of Europe and evacuate Epirus, the Albanians seem to be certain that its clandestine support to the Albanian cause will not be wanting.

2. Among the Christians opinions are somewhat divided, but the majority share the views prevailing in Greece. They are confident that the decision of Europe will be carried out under the auspices of England and France; that the Porte will eventually yield to diplomatic pressure; that the resisting power of the Albanians lacks cohesion; and that, therefore, it would break to pieces before the regular forces of Greece, which may, then hope, eventually be supported by foreign ships of war to cut off supplies from the outer world by way of the sea.

3. But although the Christians in the sea ports do not seem to apprehend any serious danger in case of disturbances breaking out, yet they look upon the position of their brethren in the interior with great anxiety, and the need of timely protection is very much felt. I do not, however, consider that the position of the Christians along the coast districts to be much safer, in consequence of the reports from Paramythia, which I had the honour to communicate to you on the 11th instant (despatch No. 33), and which have been fully confirmed since the Vali's arrival at Prevesa on Sunday, on his way to Paramythia and Margariti, for the purpose of calming down the excitement in those districts, excitement that had been produced by the news that the Conference had allotted Epirus to Greece. The Vali sent from Janina a "Hadja," to impress the Mahommedans of Margariti with the necessity, in their own interest, of not molesting the Christians, and to intimate that the Government would not tolerate violence against them. It seems, according to the latest trustworthy reports from that quarter, that the Hadja's mission had so far had a satisfactory result, and that the Mahommedans had entered into a pledge to protect life and property, and to punish with death anyone who would break this pledge.

It would, at any rate, be safer if the Government should take upon itself the protection of life and property!

The Vali left for Paramythia and Margariti early on Tuesday morning, and I have since received no further news from that quarter.

4. A batch of Albanians that had come to Prevesa returned to Parga on the eve of the Vali's departure for Margariti. Others were to follow. This gave cause to a rumour which found credence at Prevesa, that his Excellency's visit to Margariti had a double purpose—to calm down the excitement prevailing in that district; to stimulate resistance to annexation to Greece, and to make preparations accordingly.

By the time the Vali returns to Prevesa from his visit to Margariti, Parga, Paramythia, and Philates, Wessel Bey and Kiazy Bey (an Albanian, the present Governor of Argiro Kastro) shall have returned from Constantinople with fresh instructions from head-quarters.

5. It is stated that the "League" has no money to carry on the contemplated resistance, but it is generally admitted that it has at its disposal a considerable amount of Martini Henry's and several million rounds of ammunition.

Moreover, all the Albanians serving in the Turkish army are being disbanded and replaced by other troops. These men will doubtless join the forces of the "League," which are, according to all reports, already considerable in the direction of Delvino and Argiro Kastro, &c.

As regards money, the Committee of the "League" has already decided, according to reports from Janina, to levy a sheep-tax and other contributions in the districts of Margariti and Paramythia.

6. There is no lack of war material at the disposal of the Turkish troops in Epirus. It is possible that the larger part of it may eventually find its way into the hands of the "League."

I have satisfied myself that, all things considered, the state of affairs in Epirus is anything but reassuring, and that serious disturbances may be looked forward to the moment the Greek occupation is determined upon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 520.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Reade.

Santa Maura, July 17, 1880.

Sir,

REFERRING to my despatch to you from Prevesa, No. 32 of the 11th instant, on the subject of the Turkish forces in Epirus, I have now the honour to inform you that a Turkish transport, the "Babil," arrived at that port on Tuesday, the 13th instant, with some 2,050 "Nizams," recruited in Asia Minor, of whom about one-half were disembarked at Prevesa, to replace an equal number of time-expired men from the garrison of Arta, Prevesa, and Janina, who will return to their homes. The "Babil" proceeded with the other half to Scutari.

The said transport brought also a large supply of biscuits, but no war material.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

No. 521.

M. Hengelmüller to Earl Granville.—(Received July 24.)

July 23, 1880.

Dear Lord Granville,

BARON HAYMERLE has just sent me a telegram to say :—

"If all the Powers consent, we are ready to declare, in conformity with the desire of the French Government, that the modality we have adhered to with regard to Montenegro, in consequence of the English proposition, will be equally applicable for the settlement of the Greek question.

"From our part there is, therefore, no obstacle to the presentation of the identical note to the Porte. We only reserve to examine the text of the note previous to its presentation to the Porte, be it that the English Cabinet will take charge of its *rédaction*, be it that this *rédaction* will be left to the Representatives of the Powers in Constantinople."

Finding that you had already gone to the House, I venture to send this communication after you, and I will hold myself to your disposition for any observations you should wish to make upon it.

I beg, &c.

(Signed) HENGELMÜLLER.

No. 522.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 29.)
(Telegraphic.)

Bayuldéré, July 24, 1880.

PROGRESS made to-day up to Article 235.

No. 523.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 24, 11·27 A.M.)

(No. 68.)
(Telegraphic.)

Berlin, July 24, 1880.

YOUR Lordship's No. 294.

Prince Hohenlohe tells me that the Austrian Government are about to propose certain modifications to your Lordship in the text of the Protocol, to which the German Government are willing to give their assent if all the Powers agree to them.

No. 524.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 24, 11·27 A.M.)

(No. 69.)
(Telegraphic.)

Berlin, July 24, 1880.

MY No. 64.

I am happy to say Prince Hohenlohe tells me confidentially that Prince Bismarck has consented to send a ship of war at once to the Mediterranean.

The frigate "Victoria," at present at Plymouth, will probably be selected for the service.

No. 525.

Vice-Consul Mulling to Earl Granville.—(Received July 24, 2·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Dardanelles, July 24, 1880, 11·5 A.M.

AN [? Imperial] transport, laden with 2,000 tons of coal, has passed for the port of Volo in Thessaly.

No. 526.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 24, 3·30 P.M.)

(No. 140. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, July 24, 1880, 11 A.M.

THERE must be some strange intrigue at Rome. Count Corti himself told me he had received telegram from Rome in sense of my telegram No. 130, and wanted me to telegraph to warn you, though he felt that his name must not be used. Pray be careful of it. It is curious that Turkish press is full of paragraphs relative to alleged wish for Italian mediation on Greek question and compliments to Count Corti.

No. 527.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 386.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, July 24, 1880, 5 P.M.

YOUR 110.

Express to Baron Haymerle great satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt that Austrian Government consent to give desired assurance respecting action on Greek frontier questions if all the other Powers do so.

No. 528.

Earl Granville to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 372.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, July 24, 1880, 6·10 P.M.

ITALIAN Ambassador made communication on 19th instant respecting Montenegro referred to in your telegram No. 83.

I expressed opinion that proposed note to Porte should still be proceeded with, terms of which gave nearly a month's delay before occasion for demonstration would arise; that Powers might then offer assistance in this form to the Prince, when, if declined, they could consider next step. I saw no use in discussing further modifications or counter-propositions by the Porte.

No. 529.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 295.) *Foreign Office, July 24, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE conveyed to your Excellency by telegraph the approval by the Cabinet of your proposal to draw up and present to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs a note recapitulating the worst cases of abuse, anarchy, miscarriage of justice, and insecurity of life and property in Asia Minor, which have been brought to your Excellency's notice by the Reports of Her Majesty's Consuls in these territories.

In the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, however, it would be better for your Excellency to abstain from any allusion in the note to the broken pledges of reform by which the Porte is bound in consideration of the guarantee secured to her by the Cyprus Convention, and you should therefore refer to this matter in conversation only, at all events for the present.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 530.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 431.) *Foreign Office, July 24, 1880.*

My Lord,

I SPOKE to the German Ambassador some days ago on the subject of the reported employment of German financiers and officers by the Porte in the sense of the observations contained in my despatch to your Excellency No. 393 of the 16th instant.

I said that we could have no objection to the employment of German financial officials for the reorganization of the Turkish exchequer. None could be more relied upon, both for competence and integrity. The employment of German officers in the Turkish military service was a different matter. However glad we might be to see a tendency towards progress and improvement in any branch of Turkish Administration, the loan of foreign officers at the present moment could hardly fail to have a bad moral effect in Europe, and to encourage the Porte in resistance to the decisions of the Powers.

Count Münster called again on the 21st instant, and I then read to him the telegraphic account which your Excellency had sent to me of Prince Hohenlohe's answer to you on the subject. I observed that it was satisfactory to find that no officers had at present gone to Constantinople, but I confessed myself at a loss to imagine what measures the German Government could take to counteract the political impression that would be produced if the officers did go. In this view Count Münster seemed to agree.

His Excellency called upon me this afternoon and read to me a telegram, of which the substance was to the following effect:

The request for financial officials and for officers was made to the German Government by the Porte five months ago. It had been the practice for the last fifty years to lend officers to Turkey, among other reasons because it was of advantage for the instruction of the officers themselves. The officers did not go as German soldiers, but resigned their commissions in the German army, which, however, were restored to them on their return. In accordance with this practice the request had been acceded to. But it had not proceeded so far towards realization as had been reported. On former occasions there had been a readiness on the part of officers to accept the service, but on the present occasion, although the terms offered had been remarkably advantageous, very little inclination had been shown to take advantage of them.

The date at which the arrangement had been made was sufficient to show that it had no connection with the present complications, and so long as the existing state of anxiety continued in Europe, and there was any apprehension that the Porte would persist in making difficulties in carrying out the Berlin settlement, Prince Bismarck would not countenance the realization of the plan. In no case would the officers go in such a manner as to give any political significance to the matter.

The telegram concluded with an assurance that the position of the German Government in regard to this application on the part of the Porte had no political bearing on the present situation of affairs, and would in no way deter them from concurring in the proceedings of the other Treaty Powers, which are looked upon by them as the necessary consequences of the Treaty of Berlin and of the two Conferences that have been held there.

After listening to this communication, which Count Münster made to me confidentially, I said that we had no right to complain, and did not complain, of the absence of any previous intimation to ourselves and other Powers on the subject of this arrangement, because the English Government had not been in the habit of making any communication of the kind to other Powers on occasions when British officers had been permitted to enter the Turkish service.

But I thought that it would be convenient, under present circumstances, that any such arrangements should be mutually communicated.

Count Münster agreed that this would be desirable under present circumstances.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 531.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 460.) *Foreign Office, July 24, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE to request your Excellency to convey to Baron Haymerle the expression of the great satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt that the Austro-Hungarian consent to join in the assurance, if given by all the Powers, that the same course will be followed as regards a naval demonstration in the case of Greece as in that of Montenegro.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 532.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 111.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 24, 1880, 6·20 P.M.*

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires will be directed to notify to your Lordship the willingness of his Government to join in a Protocol by which the Powers engage to take no selfish advantage from the demonstration about the Montenegrin frontier, or from that about the Greek frontier.

No. 533.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 112.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 24, 1880, 6·30 P.M.*

THE collective note to the Porte proposed in your Lordship's telegram No. 380 is accepted by the Austrian Government.

Baron Haymerle had at first asked me to explain the meaning of the word "under" in the last line of your telegram, but upon my saying that it was equivalent to "according to" he said he was quite satisfied, and that there was not another word which he was not ready to adopt.

No. 534.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 25, 7 A.M.)

(No. 56.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, July 24, 1880, 10·25 P.M.*

ALBANIAN Commissioners received to-day the Scutari Committee, and explained that a cession of territory is inevitable. The Mahommedan members kept silence and allowed their Christian colleagues to declare that no cession will be permitted.

Another meeting is to be held on Monday, but it is already known that the ostensible mission of the Commissioners is bound to fail. In the meantime hostilities may be said to have commenced between the Albanians and the Montenegrins.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 535.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 25, 8 P.M.*)

(No. 141.) *Therapia, July 25, 1880, 1·30 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

I SHALL see the Sultan to-morrow or Tuesday. I hear that the Queen's telegram has produced an excellent effect, but the Sultan is still in a very nervous state.

No. 536.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 25, 8 P.M.*)

(No. 142.) *Therapia, July 25, 1880, 1·30 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

THE "Falcon," stationed at intervals here and at Athens, would naturally proceed to Athens on Tuesday. I propose to let her call at Salonica and at Volo on her way.

No. 537.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 25, 9 P.M.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, July 25, 1880, 1·30 P.M.*

THE Turkish ships of war now anchored in port of Salonica are a corvette carrying ten guns, two small coastguard cruizers, and a revenue steam cutter.

No. 538.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 25, 10 P.M.*)

(No. 57.) *Scutari, July 25, 1880, 11·5 A.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

MONTENEGRIN Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that the battalion to whom the men belonged who were recently decapitated attacked without orders, on the night of the 23rd, the villages of Gosic and Mangus, on the Podgoritza plain, and burnt them.

The Montenegrin Government expresses great regret at this act of insubordination on the part of its troops, produced by exasperation provoked by the conduct of the Albanians, and states that the Commander at Podgoritza has been ordered to restore discipline and punish the guilty. It, however, adds that, notwithstanding its desire to see every means tried for bringing to a peaceful conclusion present difficulties, it cannot always answer for passing events, through the exasperation of the Montenegrin troops, daily exposed to taunts and insults from the Albanians before them.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 539.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 26.*)

(No. 105.) *Sophia, July 7, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Acting Consul at Varna, requesting to be furnished with instructions as to whether he is to recognize the competency of the Tribunal of First Instance, at Varna, to adjudicate in mercantile questions or not.

My French and Italian colleagues have informed me that cases having arisen in which their countrymen were interested, they had instructed their Consuls at Varna to recognize the competency of the Tribunal of First Instance provisionally, making, at the same time, the fullest reserves as to the question of principle, and stating formally that the particular case is not to form a precedent. I have informed Mr. Brophy in the despatch of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, that, in my opinion it would be better, pending your Lordship's instructions, to follow a similar course, if a case should arise in which a British subject should be interested.

As soon as the law referred to in my despatch No. 104, of the 2nd instant, for the judicial organization of the country, comes into operation, the Commercial Tribunal at Rustchuk will be abolished. M. Zancoff, to whom I mentioned the subject in the course of conversation, has informed me that there will be no necessity for the Commercial Tribunal after the new law comes into operation, and that the result will be a considerable saving of money. I replied that, although I believed that Her Majesty's Government would be willing to take into consideration any suggestions which the Bulgarian Government might make on the subject, it appeared to me that the abolition of the Commercial Tribunal without any previous understanding with the Powers might be regarded as an infraction of an acquired right, to which the Powers would not be likely to consent until they had satisfied themselves that the guarantees offered by the new judicial organization were such as would insure justice being done to their respective subjects.

M. Zancoff told me that his own idea was that measures should be taken to appoint Assessors, who should assist the Court of First Instance in trying commercial cases. The Minister of Justice was now studying the question, and his Excellency hoped in a short time to be able to address a Circular on the subject to the foreign Representatives.

I shall not fail to transmit to your Lordship a copy of this Circular as soon as I shall have received it, and in the meantime I have the honour to request to be furnished with your Lordship's instructions as to the answer which I should return to Mr. Brophy's despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 539.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Lascelles.

Sir, *Varna, June 24, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to lay before you the following facts, and to request I may be instructed how to act under the circumstances.

During the Ottoman Administration there existed at Varna, as well as at other commercial centres where foreign interests were directly concerned, a Mixed Commercial Tribunal, to which the different Powers represented in the town delegated competent persons to assist asmembers in questions involving commercial law.

This regulation necessary as it was under the Turkish régime, is still more so now, on account of the Bulgarian functionaries, however well-meaning and impartial they may possibly be, being naturally considerably less versed in the law, whence result decisions contrary to law and common sense, greatly prejudicial to foreign interests, and to those of the country, if the latter were rightly understood by the people.

Here, it is now the Tribunal of First Instance which assumes to itself the right of deciding all commercial law-suits as well as all those that naturally come under its competency, and the strange spectacle is frequently afforded of that Tribunal giving sentences by default against foreigners, who have been expressly forbidden by their Consular authorities to recognize the jurisdiction of that Court in commercial affairs.

When the Judgment has gone by default, of course the way of appeal is not open to the condemned foreigner, as his Consular authority has refused even remotely to acknowledge the competency of the local Court, as constituted, to judge the affair, and so the local authorities, not being able to carry out their decisions in a regular manner, strive to do so in an irregular and illegal manner, such as, in the case of foreign traders, arresting their goods at the custom-house and otherwise subjecting them to all sorts of vexations, until they, for the most part, are obliged, to avoid further loss, to submit to an evident injustice, which they do, at the same inveighing against the representatives of their nationalities, who, though acting according to superior orders, have caused them to incur heavy losses, while they seem impotent to obtain any redress.

At Rustchuk, which, commercially, is not so important a point as Varna, there is already a Mixed Commercial Tribunal, and at one time the Ministerial order came from Sophia that all purely commercial affairs of Varna were to be judged there in the first place, which measure, though exceedingly inconvenient for merchants residing here, was so far good that it held out the hope that the suits would be decided by persons not utterly ignorant of commercial law and usages; but, unfortunately, this slight concession was not recognized by the Varna Tribunals, who continue to act as before.

As regards the question of the competency of the Tribunal of First Instance to judge commercial cases, I may add that the Consulates here of France, Austro-Hungary,

Italy, and Greece have received orders not to recognize it; the Russian Consulate had, shortly after the evacuation by the Russian army of occupation, instructions to recognize it provisionally, and later inquiries on the subject have not yet been answered.

In the first half of last year, when I requested to know what position I was to take up on this and other similar questions, I was told that affairs being in a transitory state it was advisable to show great consideration for the difficulties and inexperience of the Administration and not to lay stress on technicalities or points of minor importance, so long as the cardinal rules of equity were observed.

These instructions I have endeavoured to follow out, but am constrained to say that the state of things has far from improved, and that justice, as administered here, is scarcely in accordance with received ideas on the subject, numerous flagrant instances of which could be only too easily brought forward. The evident object of the Bulgarian Government in all this is to do away with the Capitulations, and the right of Consuls to intervene in their subjects' behalf.

The result aimed at is natural, but the means adopted are any such but as will lead the foreign Powers interested to acquiesce in its desirableness, for, up to the present, apart from the incapability of those set up as Judges, Bulgarians have been generally favoured to the detriment of foreign plaintiffs and defendants, and by the sentences so pronounced, the end they evidently propose is to coerce the foreign subjects to address themselves directly to the local authorities without applying to their Consular authorities.

It is for these reasons that I now humbly beg to be informed if henceforward I am to recognize the competency of the Tribunal of First Instance to adjudicate in mercantile questions or not, and whether, when the Capitulations and other similar safeguards against arbitrary procedure on the part of the local authorities are being encroached upon or directly attacked, I am to protest officially, or else passively allow things to follow their course.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 539.

Mr. Lascelles to Vice-Consul Brophy.

Sophia, July 7, 1880.

Sir,

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 24th ultimo, requesting instructions as to the competency of the Court of First Instance at Varna to adjudicate in mercantile questions, and whether you should protest officially when the Capitulations and other similar safeguards against arbitrary procedure on the part of the local authorities are being encroached upon or directly attacked.

I have forwarded a copy of your despatch to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and requested his Lordship to furnish me with instructions upon the point in question, which I shall not fail to communicate to you as soon as I shall have received them. If, in the meantime, a case should occur in which a British subject is interested, I am of opinion that it would be better to follow the course which the French and Italian Agents have recently instructed their Consuls at Varna to take, viz., recognize the competency of the Court of First Instance provisionally, making, at the same time, the fullest reserves as to the question of principle involved, and stating formally that the particular case should not form a precedent.

I am, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 540.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 106.)

Sophia, July 8, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Varna, reporting that the Military Tribunal at Varna had temporarily suspended its sittings, and that sentences of death passed against persons accused of brigandage and assassination had been carried out at Varna, Baltchik, and Shumla.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 540.

Acting Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Lascelles.

Varna, June 17, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Military Tribunal of Varna has lately temporarily suspended its sittings, and that the following sentences have been carried out against persons accused of brigandage and assassination:—

Four Mussulmans condemned to death and hanged in this town on Sunday, the 6th instant; instead of a proper drop being allowed, the condemned were hauled up from the ground by a rope passed through an iron ring, with the natural consequences. The next day two Turks were hanged at Baltchik, and a third condemned to fifteen years' penal servitude.

Some days later one Bulgarian was hanged and two others condemned to imprisonment.

At Shumla, under the Presidency of the Minister for War, General Ehrenroth, many Mussulmans have been executed, how many exactly I have been unable to ascertain, but certainly more than a score.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

No. 541.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 107.)

Sophia, July 9, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a note addressed to me by Nihad Pasha, inclosing a petition from the Turkish inhabitants of the district of Tirnovo, setting forth the persecutions to which they are subjected by the Bulgarians.

Nihad Pasha has since informed me that he has reason to be satisfied with the measures taken by the Bulgarian Government with regard to the Turkish population. He has found Mr. Zancoff disposed to meet his views as regards the measures to be taken for the return of the refugees. It was originally settled that each refugee should be provided with 30 okes of corn, but at Nihad Pasha's suggestion this amount was reduced to 15 okes, and in cases where there was a difficulty in furnishing the refugees with corn, it was decided that they should be provided with money instead.

Mr. Zancoff has informed me that a Commission, composed of the President of the Bulgarian Chamber, the Governor of Sophia, and the Governor of Varna, has been appointed to install the refugees in their homes, and that a sum of 100,000 fr. has been put at the disposal of the Commission to enable them to meet the expenses of the installation, and, if necessary, to rebuild the houses which have been destroyed. This money is to be taken from the revenues of the Turkish properties which, since the emigration of the owners, have been administered by the Bulgarian authorities.

With regard to the property of Mussulmans, Mr. Zancoff has informed me that the was preparing a Circular to the foreign Representatives to communicate to them a Decree which has recently been signed by the Prince, ordering the restitution of the property which is not retained for public utility. In cases where the houses have already been sold by the Municipality, the sum realized by the sale is to be given to the owners, with a deduction of 20 per cent. for expenses, and in cases where the houses have been retained for the use of the Government, or destroyed in order to make roads and other works of public utility, the amount of compensation to be given to the owners is to be fixed by a Commission, the owners having the right to appeal to the Tribunals if they are not satisfied with the decision of the Commission.

I told Mr. Zancoff that I was convinced that Her Majesty's Government would learn with satisfaction that the Bulgarian Government had adopted measures which would insure the Turkish population being treated with justice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 541.

Nihad Pasha to Mr. Lascelles.

Sophia, le 20 Juin, 1880.

M. l'Agent,

JE vous adresse sous pli la requête que les habitants Musulmans du district (sandjak) de Tirnovo m'ont adressée, pour se plaindre des persécutions et des crimes commis journellement sur leurs coreligionnaires.

Une pareille requête a été présentée aussi à Mr. Zancoff pour exposer au Gouvernement Princier la situation cruelle qui leur est faite et solliciter protection.

Tant qu'une pression extérieure ne se fera pas sentir, je conserve peu d'espoir pour ces malheureux.

Je vous adresse ce document comme nouvelle preuve que les habitants Musulmans de la Bulgarie sont forcément obligés de chercher leur salut dans l'émigration, qui est pour eux un grand malheur et pour le Gouvernement Impérial une cause de graves embarras.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) NIHAD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 541.

Petition.

(Traduction.)

NOUS avions forcément émigré pendant la guerre, mais nous sommes retournés depuis, les biens, les immeubles, la vie, l'honneur, et enfin le culte des Musulmans ayant été garantis et assurés par le Traité de Berlin.

Depuis notre retour jusqu'ici, nous ne voyons aucune sûreté ni pour nos biens, ni pour notre vie, ni pour notre honneur; on nous assomme de coups, on nous tue, on pille nos maisons; nous ne pouvons dormir une minute tranquillement par la peur du pillage.

Pour rentrer en possession de nos biens qui nous appartiennent du père en fils, nous sommes obligés de nous adresser aux Moukhtars Bulgares à l'effet d'obtenir un certificat. Ceux-ci ne nous délivrent le certificat qu'après mille désagréments et après avoir reçu 500 piastres, au nom de telle et de telle école, pour un immeuble qui ne vaut que 1,000 piastres.

Si quelque chose est vendu et 100 piastres sont encaissées, voici des Bulgares qui entrent nuitamment à la maison pour enlever cette somme.

1. Précédemment le nommé Muderris Ali Effendi, du village de Yamen, a été tué dans sa maison, tout son argent a été enlevé. On ne sait pas l'endroit où l'on a jeté son corps. Les assassins et les malfaiteurs ont été dénoncés par la famille du défunt aux autorités locales, qui n'ont pas mis le fait au jour.

2. Dans le village Odalar, on a attaqué nuitamment la maison de Hadji Ali; on a enlevé son argent; son fils, sa femme, et son bœuf sont morts à la suite des blessures qu'ils ont reçus des coups de fusil.

3. Au village de Okdjilar la maison de Molla Mehemed a été attaquée; lui et sa femme ont été fortement battus, et, quelques jours après, tous les deux ont succombé. Molla Mehemed a dénoncé, avant sa mort, ses assassins. Ce fait a été porté à la connaissance des autorités, mais les auteurs du crime n'ont pas été même arrêtés pour une nuit.

4. La maison d'Ibiche Mehemed, du village de Trembeche-Dagh, a été nuitamment attaquée par des Bulgares; il a été battu et blessé à coups de couteau. Les Bulgares se sont enfuis après avoir enlevé l'argent de leurs victimes. On n'a pas l'espoir de vie pour le dit Mehemed et pour sa femme. Des Bulgares du même village, les nommés Nédelco, Cochiden, et Yordour, sont entrés pendant la nuit à la maison de Hatib Oghlou Ali, lui ont cassé la porte et en l'amenant chez le Moukhtar, l'ont battu très-fortement et enlevé son argent, montant à 800 piastres.

5. Les maisons des nommés Berber Hadji, Mehemed, et Moukhtar Ali Agha ont été attaquées nuitamment au village de Réviche; ils ont été assommés de coups. On a enlevé 15,000 piastres à Hadji Mehemed et 600 piastres à Ali Agha.

6. Les nommés Moustafa Oghlou Soleïman et Halil Oghlou Ahmed, du village de Réviché, coupaient, il y a quelques jours, du bois dans les forêts situées dans les limites de leur village; trois soldats Bulgares, de Kadi-Keui, et un gendarme qui les ont rencontrés, les ont engagés d'aller atteler leur voiture; sur le refus de ces villageois à cause d'occupation, ces gens ont coupé les bras à Suleïman et ont battu Ahmed. L'officier qui se trouve à Kessirva a été avisé du fait; aucun résultat jusqu'ici.

7. Quinze muletiers du village Ormoutlou avec ceux du village Polcrachta, ont pris des charges en orge qu'ils transportaient de Sistow à Tirnovo. Arrivés au village de Hébilli, ils ont laissé leurs bêtes paître, comme ils le faisaient dans le temps, et ils y passaient la nuit. Le Teborbadji (Chef du village) accompagné de gendarmes, est venu prendre, parmi ces muletiers seulement, les Musulmans; on les a conduits à l'école; ils y ont été arrêtés; quelques moments après, on les a fait sortir l'un après l'autre, on les a déshabillés et assommés de coups et même blessés.

8. Des Bulgares ont attaqué, vers minuit, la maison de Hadji Mehemed, du village Radan, district de Tirnovo. Sa femme a pu s'échapper; il a été blessé par quatre ou cinq coups de couteau; on lui a enlevé 6,000 piastres. Il a reconnu, parmi les malfaiteurs, le fils d'un certain Dédo Yordan; il l'a dénoncé aux autorités qui, sans vérifier l'affaire et sans retenir l'accusé, l'ont mis en liberté.

9. Les habitants de Dola-Lipnitza ont été mandés nuitamment à l'école; on leur a demandé pourquoi ils allaient cultiver leurs terres et s'occuper des affaires, et s'ils avaient encore l'intention de rester en Bulgarie. On leur a assigné de quitter immédiatement la localité et assommés de coups.

10. Les nommés Eyoub, Ahmed, Ali, Davoud, et Ibrahim, du village Resné, qui avaient élu domicile à Tirnovo, se sont rendus, pour affaires privées, à leur village; à leur retour, ils ont passé par le village Samogda; arrivés près la boutique de Sémo, celui-ci les a obligés de s'arrêter en disant qu'il voulait visiter leur bagage pour voir s'il y a des cartouches. Il y a trouvé une somme de 20,000 piastres, montant du produit de la vente des immeubles des individus sus-mentionnés, somme qu'ils avaient cachée dans leur voiture. Il leur a dit qu'il cherchait s'il y a des cartouches et qu'il n'avait pas besoin d'argent. Il les a congédiés. Arrivés près le Han de Mahmoud Bey, ces gens ont été attaqués par le dit Sémo, à cheval, qui voulait enlever leur argent; voyant leur refus, il a tiré un grand couteau et coupé le nez de l'un des chevaux de la voiture; ils ont pris le couteau des mains de Sémo; ils l'apportaient aux autorités; les Bulgares de la localité se sont précipités sur eux, leur ont pris l'arme pour la remettre eux-mêmes aux autorités. Celles-ci ont arrêté Sémo, qui vingt jours après a été mis en liberté.

11. Le nommé Ali, du village Trembèche-Dagh, qui, pour la sûreté de vie, était venu s'installer, avec sa famille à Tirnovo, se promenait près du bourg à Kénar-Tchechmé; huit Bulgares l'ont attaqué et lui ont enlevé 40 roubles; le fait a été signalé au sergent gendarme du quartier. Aucun résultat!

12. On ne reconnaît plus les procurations en due et bonne forme; on ne nous permet pas de vendre les immeubles, mêmes ceux pour lesquels nous avons pu obtenir la sentence. De plus, on nous met sous des garants en disant que nous allons fuir.

13. Les habitants mâles de quelques villages qui n'ont pas émigré ont été tués par leurs compatriotes Bulgares. Quant aux femmes, leurs titres de propriété, ainsi que leurs biens, ont été enlevés et pillés. On ne les reconnaît propriétaires que lorqu'elles ont un certificat de la part des Bulgares, tandis que ces derniers ne délivrent pas le certificat exigé. On signale le cas aux autorités. Quel profit? . . . . les malheureuses errent dans les rues.

Somme toute, tant à Tirnovo qu'à son district, point de sûreté de vie, d'honneur, et de biens: être assommé de coups, meurtre, pillage, telles sont nos perspectives. Aller d'un village à l'autre, ou se rendre, argent en poche, au marché pour acheter quelques choses ce sont des impossibilités. Dans la ville même, un épicier, un cabaretier, ou un sergent de l'armée, est-il un peu ivre, injurie les Musulmans qu'il rencontre, à leurs mères, femmes, et nationalité; on nous frappe même avec les fouets et les bâtons déjà préparés; on viole nos domiciles. Les autorités restent sourdes à ces faits.

Nous devons ajouter encore que deux ans auparavant les villageois sont rentrés chez eux et ont commencé à travailler leurs terres; la plupart d'entre eux a présenté des requêtes à la Commission pour rentrer en possession de leurs propriétés. Ils n'ont pu obtenir jusqu'ici la reconnaissance de leurs immeubles parce que les Moukhtars de quelques villages n'ont pas donné des certificats. Pendant la guerre ou durant le trajet de l'émigration, quelques-uns d'entre nous ont perdu leurs titres de propriétés, leur argent, ou leurs papiers d'affaires. Profitant de cette circonstance, on avance que le terrain sur lequel nos maisons sont bâties, était un pâturage destiné au public, il y a 100 ans; de même pour nos terres. On prétend même que notre propriété appartenait à tel ou à tel Bulgare dans une époque immémorable; et par conséquent, on ne délivre pas le certificat. Si nous avons entre les (les) mains des tapous (titres de propriété) que nous avons obtenus du Ministère des Archives à Constantinople d'après les registres tenus à ce Département, les autorités de Tirnovo ne reconnaissent point ces titres. Quoique nos propriétés ne soient

pas encore reconnues, on nous oblige à payer, en dehors de la dime et de l'impôt, une somme de 4 fr. par deunum. Nos champs, les mieux cultivés, sont pris par les Bulgares, qui nous disent qu'ils en paieront les loyers aux autorités. Que faire! pas d'argent, pas de bœufs, pas de sûreté. Nos tapous n'ont pas de valeur! Nous ne rentrons pas en possession de nos propriétés!

Tout ce que nous avons signalé depuis le commencement n'est qu'un millième. Nous nous déclarons incapables à dire le tout.

(Suivent 99 cachets des habitants.)

Le 15 Mai, 1206 (27 *Mai*, 1880).

No. 542.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 26.*)

(No. 242.)
My Lord,

Athens, July 16, 1880.

REFERRING to your Lordship's telegram No. 21 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Chargé d'Affaires of Germany having received late last night instructions from his Government to join his colleagues at Athens in signing the collective note to the Greek Government, the Representatives of the Great Powers met to-day at my house, when I submitted to them the draft which I was authorized by your Lordship's instructions to sign.

A copy of the note in the form adopted is inclosed herewith.

The draft of note which the French Chargé d'Affaires was directed to sign ended at the words "acquis à la Grèce."

The Chargé d'Affaires of Austria-Hungary said he was instructed to add the two next paragraphs between inverted commas beginning at the word "Toutes," and ending at the word "intéressées."

As the addition of these two paragraphs in the "Acte Final," embodied in the note, was approved by the majority of the Representatives present, the French Chargé d'Affaires agreed to adopt them also, although not authorized by the letter of instructions to do so, in order to prevent the delay which would be caused by referring to his Government.

As I had been informed, by your Lordship's telegram No. 20, that the collective note and award were contained in Protocols Nos. 5 and 7, and as the two paragraphs above mentioned formed part of the award, I considered they ought to be included in the collective note, and the note was finally signed by all the Representatives of the Great Powers in the words of copy inclosed.

Having been informed by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople that the collective note to the Porte bore the date of the 15th July, we adopted the same date.

Shortly after we had signed the note, I, as Doyen of the Diplomatic Body, placed it in the hands of the Prime Minister, who expressed to me in warm terms the gratitude due by Greece to Her Majesty's Government for the share they had taken in bringing this frontier question to its present position. M. Tricoupi added some complimentary personal observations to myself for the cordial manner in which I had carried out my instructions, and the assistance I had given to the Greek Government throughout the period during which the negotiations have been carried on, and his acknowledgment of the sympathy I had shown towards Greece.

A translation of the collective note will be published in the official "Gazette" of this evening.

I expect to be able to send your Lordship a copy of M. Tricoupi's answer by the present mail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 542.

Collective Note addressed to the Greek Government.

LES Soussignés, Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté Britannique; Chargé d'Affaires de Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Allemagne; Chargé d'Affaires de Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Autriche, Roi d'Hongrie; Chargé d'Affaires de la République Française; Chargé d'Affaires de Sa Majesté le Roi d'Italie; Chargé d'Affaires de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies, près du Gouvernement Hellénique, ont l'honneur de remettre à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Grèce la note ci-après, d'ordre de leurs Gouvernements.

Le Congrès de Berlin ayant indiqué dans son 13ème Protocole les points principaux de la ligne-frontière qu'il jugeait nécessaire d'établir entre la Turquie et la Grèce, les Puissances ont fait appel d'abord à des négociations directes, sur cette base, entre les deux Etats. A deux reprises, dans les Conférences de Preveza et de Constantinople, les Commissaires Turcs et Grecs, après de longs pourparlers, n'ont abouti qu'à constater leurs divergences; en présence de ces tentatives infructueuses, les Puissances désignées par le Traité de Berlin ont jugé nécessaire d'interposer leur médiation.

Cette médiation, pour être efficace, devait s'exercer dans toute sa plénitude, et les Cabinets, en présence des dispositions réciproques des deux Etats intéressés, ont prescrit à leurs Représentants réunis en Conférence à Berlin, de fixer, en se conformant aux indications générales du Protocole No. 13, une ligne qui constituât entre la Grèce et la Turquie une bonne et solide frontière défensive.

Les Plénipotentiaires, après la discussion la plus attentive, éclairés d'ailleurs par les avis des Commissaires Techniques délégués par leurs Gouvernements, ont voté, à l'unanimité, suivant les termes de leur mandat, le tracé contenu dans l'Acte suivant, qui résume et clôt leurs délibérations:

"Les pourparlers engagés entre la Turquie et la Grèce pour la rectification de leurs frontières n'ayant point amené de résultat, les Soussignés, Plénipotentiaires des Puissances appelées par les prévisions de l'Acte du 13 Juillet, 1878, à exercer la médiation entre les deux Etats, se sont réunis en Conférence à Berlin, conformément aux instructions de leurs Gouvernements, et, après mûre délibération, s'inspirant de l'esprit et des termes du Protocole du No. 13 du Congrès de Berlin, ont adopté, à l'unanimité, le tracé suivant:

"La frontière suivra le thalweg du Kalamas depuis l'embouchure de cette rivière dans la Mer Ionienne jusqu'à sa source dans le voisinage de Han Kalibaki, puis les crêtes qui forment la ligne de séparation entre les bassins:

"Au nord, de la Vouïtsa, de l'Haliacmon, et du Mavronéri, et leurs tributaires;

"Au sud, de Kalamas, de l'Arta, de l'Aspropotamos et du Salamyrias (Pénée ancien) et de leurs tributaires, pour aboutir à l'Olympe, dont elle suivra la crête jusqu'à son extrémité orientale sur la Mer Egée.

"Cette ligne laisse, au sud, le Lac de Janina et tous ses affluents, ainsi que Metzovo, qui resteront acquis à la Grèce.

"Toutes ces communications se rapportent à la Carte de l'Etat-Major Austro-Hongrois.

"Les Soussignés ont l'honneur de soumettre aux Puissances dont ils sont les Représentants et les mandataires la présente décision afin qu'elles veuillent bien l'approuver et la notifier aux parties intéressées."

En conséquence, les Gouvernements de la Grande Bretagne, de l'Allemagne, de l'Autriche-Hongrie, de la France, de l'Italie, et de la Russie, invitent le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Roi des Hellènes à accepter la ligne-frontière indiquée dans le document ci-dessus, et que les Puissances Médiatrices réunies en Conférence ont unanimement reconnue conforme à l'esprit et aux termes du Traité de Berlin et du Protocole No. 13 du Congrès.

Les Soussignés, &c.

(Signé) EDWIN CORBETT.
GRAF von WALDENBURG.
WACKEN.
TERNAUX COMPANS.
DE DAUZAS.

Athènes, le 15 Juillet, 1880.

No. 543.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 26.*)

(No. 243.)
My Lord,

Athens, July 17, 1880.

REFERRING to my previous number of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inclose copy of the answer of the Greek Government to the collective note, which, in con-

junction with the other Representatives of the Great Powers, I placed in the hands of the Prime Minister on that day.

M. Tricoupi takes note of the information in regard to the proposed frontier-line between Turkey and Greece, and renders homage to the high spirit of equity which inspired the Powers in the accomplishment of their task, and declares that he accepts, in the name of the Hellenic Government, the frontier-line fixed by the Conference of Berlin, of which the direction is marked in the Act which resumes and closes their deliberations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 543.

M. Tricoupi to Mr. Corbett.

LE Soussigné, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de sa Majesté le Roi des Hellènes, a eu l'honneur de recevoir aujourd'hui la note collective, en date d'hier, que son Excellence M. l'Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire de sa Majesté Britannique, conjointement avec le Chargé d'Affaires de sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Allemagne, le Chargé d'Affaires de sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Autriche-Hongrie, le Chargé d'Affaires de la République Française, le Chargé d'Affaires de sa Majesté le Roi d'Italie, et le Chargé d'Affaires de sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies lui ont adressée d'ordre de leurs Gouvernements.

Par cette communication les Puissances appelées par les prévisions de l'Acte du 13 Juillet, 1878, à exercer la médiation entre la Grèce et la Turquie, notifient leur décision au Gouvernement Hellénique et l'invitent à accepter la ligne-frontière que ces Puissances, réunies en Conférence, ont unanimement reconnue conforme à l'esprit et aux termes du Traité de Berlin et du Protocole No. 13 du Congrès.

Le Soussigné prend acte de la notification qui lui est faite et, en rendant hommage à l'esprit de haute équité dont les Puissances se sont inspirées dans l'accomplissement de leur mandat, déclare accepter au nom du Gouvernement Hellénique la ligne-frontière fixée par la Conférence de Berlin et dont le tracé est contenu dans l'acte qui résume et clôt ses délibérations.

Le Soussigné saisit, &c.

(Signé) CH. TRICOUPI.

Athènes, le 14/26 Juillet, 1880.

No. 544.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 244.)
Athens, July 17, 1880.

My Lord,

THE collective note and M. Tricoupi's answer were published last evening, and the official news of the result of the negotiations at Berlin was received in Athens with the greatest enthusiasm. Flags were displayed at the Town Hall and other public buildings, shops, and private houses; the bells of all the churches rang; at night a *Te Deum* was sung by the President of the Holy Synod, which was attended by the Mayor and the Municipal Council, and the streets were illuminated spontaneously by the inhabitants. On returning from the *Te Deum*, the procession passed through the principal streets, attended by a numerous and enthusiastic crowd and a band of music, which halted before the house I inhabit and played "God save the Queen," loud cheers being given for the Queen, Mr. Gladstone, and "the noble English nation."

The popular demonstration of yesterday was spontaneous, and it is understood that for to-day more formal rejoicings are being organized, and a resolution of thanks to the Powers will be voted by the Municipality.

The President of the City Council, M. I. Philemon, addressed the crowd at the Hotel de Ville, and commented upon the great advantage to Hellenism of the decision of the Powers, which imposed on the Greeks the necessity of showing themselves worthy of it by acts and sacrifices. "Let us celebrate fêtes," he said, "to-day and to-morrow, but let us be ready the day after to-morrow, from young lads to aged people, to serve as soldiers." These words were received with great enthusiasm by those who heard them, but I think

there is not any great enthusiasm throughout the country to take by force what has been accorded by the Berlin Conference, and hope is generally entertained that the Great Powers, who have declared themselves in favour of the augmentation of Greek territory, will also bear a principal part in obtaining it from the Turks.

The crowds in the street last night, in order that the demonstration might appear spontaneous and purely patriotic, and not factious, avoided passing before the residences of the Ministers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 545.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 316. Secret.)
Berlin, July 19, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs was unable to answer your Lordship's last telegraphic question to-day, not having yet heard from the Chancellor, who is at Friedrichsruhe.

From the language of some of my colleagues, I gather that the French Government represent, both here and at St. Petersburgh, the proposed naval Dulcigno demonstration as an impotent measure, which will not prevent hostilities being carried on inland while the allied navies are cruizing off the coast.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 546.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 318. Confidential.)
Berlin, July 21, 1880.

My Lord,

I AM as yet unable to send your Lordship the official answer of the German Government respecting the self-denying Protocol and the Dulcigno naval demonstration, Prince Hohenlohe not having heard from the Chancellor on the subject yet.

Meanwhile, I have again strongly urged the timely despatch of German ships of war to the Mediterranean so as to be prepared to take part with the other Powers in the Dulcigno and Greek naval demonstrations later on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 547.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 320.)
Berlin, July 21, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE given Prince Hohenlohe an extract of your Lordship's instructions to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople respecting the protection to be guaranteed to Mussulman proprietors, and have asked his Highness if he would send similar instructions to the German Ambassador as suggested by Her Majesty's Government.

Prince Hohenlohe, in reply, tells me that Count Hatzfeldt has already received general instructions to concert with his colleagues in matters of common interest, but that he would send special instructions in the present instance to his Excellency to hold the same language as Mr. Goschen on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 548.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 26.)

(No. 322.) *Berlin, July* 23, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE have just received a private note from Prince Hohenlohe, telling me that he is now able to answer your Lordship's request of the 17th instant respecting the assurance desired by M. de Freycinet.

His Highness says that the German Government will join with Her Majesty's Government in giving that assurance as follows:—

"1. That the participation of all the Powers being acquired, the German Government are ready to take part 'by showing their flag' in a naval demonstration having for its object to facilitate the delimitation of the Montenegrin frontier as proposed by Her Majesty's Government; and

"2. That the German Government are likewise disposed, if all the Powers are agreed, to declare that the mode of proceeding accepted in regard to Montenegro might be applied also to the regulation of the Greek frontier question."

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

P.S.—For your Lordship's more complete information, I add copy of Prince Hohenlohe's letter, which is marked "Private."

O. R.

Inclosure in No. 548.

Prince Hohenlohe to Lord Odo Russell.

(Particulière.) *Berlin, le* 22 *Juillet*, 1880.

Mon cher Lord Odo,

POUR ne pas vous faire perdre de temps, je m'empresse de vous donner aujourd'hui déjà la réponse que je vous avais promise pour demain, savoir:—

1. Que, la participation de toutes les Puissances étant acquise, nous sommes prêts à prendre part, en montrant notre pavillon, à une démonstration navale ayant pour but de faciliter la délimitation que vous avez proposée pour le Monténégro.

2. Que nous sommes également disposés, si toutes les Puissances sont d'accord, à déclarer que le mode tel que nous l'avons accepté à l'égard du Monténégro, pourrait s'appliquer de même au réglement de la question de la frontière Grecque.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) HOHENLOHE.

No. 549.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 26.)

(No. 324.) *Berlin, July* 23, 1880.

My Lord,

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram respecting the Protocol to be signed by the Ambassadors at Constantinople, I telegraphed this day to the Foreign Office that the German Government saw no objection to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 550.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 26.)

(No. 326.) *Berlin, July* 24, 1880.

My Lord,

IN the course of a conversation I had yesterday with Prince Hohenlohe on the subject of the Protocol suggested to the Powers on the 17th instant by Her Majesty's Government, his Highness told me that the Austrian Government wished to propose certain modifications in the text submitted to them by your Lordship, to which the

German Government were willing to give their assent if all the Powers agreed to adopt them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 551.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 26.)

(No. 328. Confidential.) *Berlin, July* 24, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my previous correspondence on the subject, I am happy to say that Prince Bismarck has consented to send a German ship of war at once to the Mediterranean.

Prince Hohenlohe tells me "confidentially" that the German frigate "Victoria," at present at Plymouth, will in all probability be selected for that service.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 552.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 26.)

(No. 402.) *Vienna, July* 19, 1880.

My Lord,

AS instructed by your Lordship, I have asked Baron Haymerle what he thought of the question of Consular jurisdiction in Bulgaria, and of the refusal of the Bulgarian Government to the exercise of it to Roumania.

His Excellency said that the VIIIth and Lth Articles of the Treaty of Berlin appeared to him so plain that he did not think there could be a doubt of Roumania having a perfect right to claim Consular jurisdiction in the Principality, and he had already written in this sense to the Austro-Hungarian Agent at Sophia.

It was not, he observed, only with regard to Roumania that the Bulgarian Government endeavoured to escape from their obligations under those Articles, for although there was at present nothing deserving of the name of legal institutions in the Principality, they had on many occasions entirely disregarded the Consular rights of Austria-Hungary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 553.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 26.)

(No. 404.) *Vienna, July* 19, 1880.

My Lord,

THE combination of the April agreement for the settlement of the Montenegrin frontier question and of the Dulcigno arrangement suggested in the last note of the Porte is stated in such vague and general terms that Baron Haymerle considers that it ought not to be allowed to become a means of causing further delay in a matter calling for early settlement.

It would be the third substitute for the original provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, and he would not himself be disposed to submit a fresh arrangement to the acceptance of the Prince of Montenegro.

Upon my observing that the Prince had latterly declared that he left the arrangement of the question entirely in the hands of the Treaty Powers, his Excellency answered that when the Porte explained its proposal more clearly its merits could be taken into consideration, but the rights and interests of the Prince must not be lost sight of.

I said that I was certain of Her Majesty's Government entirely agreeing with him in this.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 554.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 406.) *Vienna, July 20, 1880.*

My Lord,

I SENT the substance of your Lordship's telegram No. 353 of the 17th instant to Baron Haymerle, but was unable to see him this morning when I called to ask whether he would instruct the Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires to join in a simultaneous communication to the Porte respecting the Montenegrin frontier, drawn up in the tenour of Mr. Goschen's telegram No. 123.

His Excellency, however, sent to me in the afternoon to say that he would hardly be disposed to authorize M. Kosjeek to join in making such a communication till he was more precisely informed of the language to be adopted in it.

He considered the matter too important to make it desirable to leave the wording of the communication entirely to the Representatives without having been previously approved by their Governments, and he would therefore be glad if your Lordship could inform him more precisely what you consider that it should contain.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 555.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 408.) *Vienna, July 21, 1880.*

My Lord,

THE Austrian Government state that they agree in principle to the proposal of the French Government that the Powers should give an assurance that, in the event of its becoming necessary, a united demonstration such as is about to be made for settling the Montenegrin frontier question would also be adopted with respect to the Greek frontier.

Baron Haymerle is not, however, ready to declare his acceptance of this proposal till he has more minutely examined it in all its bearings and details.

He wishes also carefully to consider the form that it would be proper to give to the Protocol proposed by your Lordship by which the different Governments should engage not to secure any special advantage to themselves from the demonstration, although fully agreed in the principle which has suggested such an agreement.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 556.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 412. Very Confidential.) *Vienna, July 22, 1880.*

My Lord,

A STATEMENT has been going the round of the newspapers respecting a communication said to have been made by Prince Alexander to "certain Governments" with the view of ascertaining whether they would be disposed to favour the union of Bulgaria with that portion of Eastern Roumelia which is strictly Bulgarian, the eastern boundary being the Iondja, which would exclude the Bourgas district, where the Bulgarian element only forms a small minority of the population.

I have endeavoured to ascertain whether any such overture has been made to the Austro-Hungarian Government, but I am assured that it has not, and that they are not aware of its having been made to any other Government.

I have not succeeded in eliciting from Baron Haymerle any expressions sufficiently clear to warrant me in speaking with confidence of the manner in which such a proposition, if brought forward, would be received by the Imperial Government, which has hitherto never varied in declaring that the only security for the peace of Europe lay in the strict maintenance of the Treaty of Berlin in its full integrity.

I can, however, state my firm belief that, if such a project had been brought forward previous to the conclusion of the Treaty of Berlin, it would have been greatly preferred by the Austro-Hungarian Government to the arrangement ultimately adopted, for they never

approved of the creation of the Province of Eastern Roumelia, and gave their adhesion to it solely out of deference to the wishes of Her Majesty's late Cabinet.

Although the formation of a great Slav State to the south of the Danube was the one of the possible consequences of the war especially dreaded in this country, Count Andrassy repeatedly said to me before the Congress of Berlin, that it would be better to extend the limits proposed to be assigned to the new Principality than to exclude from it populations of the same race and animated by the same national aspirations, which were to be endowed with semi-autonomous institutions, enabling them to keep up an agitation for the union that they certainly would endeavour to bring about. The object of the European Powers, he said, should be to make an arrangement likely to be more or less durable, which, in his opinion, was not to be expected from the experiment about to be tried.

I have reverted to these opinions of Count Andrassy because, believing them to have been shared by Baron Haymerle, they must be taken into consideration in any attempts to judge of the manner in which a scheme such as is stated to be in agitation is likely to be regarded at Vienna.

It is already seen that, by the creation of the Eastern Roumelian province, Turkey has been placed in a no better position than if it had been incorporated in the Principality, and that the populations only look upon it as a temporary expedient; and the Austrian Government appear convinced that, when a favourable opportunity occurs, a unionist movement will break out.

The Russian Government, which cannot be supposed to feel any affection for an arrangement that they acquiesced in almost under coercion, would not be likely to show a disinclination to permit the union to take place, and Baron Haymerle has sometimes asked me, with apparent anxiety, what would be the course of Her Majesty's Government if a movement in favour of it were to break out, and whether they would stand up for the maintenance of the Treaty arrangements.

There is no question connected with the East which gives the Imperial Government nearly as much uneasiness as this prospect of a Bulgarian movement. The Montenegrin frontier arrangement, although more immediately pressing, is looked upon as comparatively unimportant; and the same may perhaps be said even of the question of the Greek frontier, except in as far as the probability that so large a sacrifice of territory may not be obtained from Turkey without disturbances, of which the Bulgarians would take advantage to carry out their own objects, and it is believed that they would then endeavour to recover the frontier laid down in the Treaty of San Stefano. It is to the extension of Bulgaria to the south and south-west that Austria may always be expected to offer the most determined opposition, as being equally menacing to her own interests and fatal to the future development of Greece.

Their views in this matter are shared by Roumania and Servia, both of which express their uneasiness at the prospect of a Bulgarian extension; and I feel it right to state to your Lordship, though with much diffidence, that if a formidable unionist movement were to break out, the Austrian Government may be found ready to take very energetic measures to prevent it, "in defence of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin." If, on the other hand, a proposal such as I have alluded to at the commencement of this despatch were to be brought forward by any other Government, unaccompanied by any insurrectionary movement, with guarantees for the maintenance of the existing frontiers of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia to the south and south-west, I have a strong impression—though I must beg your Lordship to remember that it is but an impression—that it might not be impossible to obtain for it the acquiescence of this country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 557.

Abédine Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, July 26.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 24 Juillet, 1880.*

HIER soir les Monténégrins ont attaqué et brûlé les deux villages de Madujoush et de Jocchitchi.

A l'heure qu'il est le Sémeur Bojo se trouve à la tête des montagnards à Antivari.

Ces faits, confirmés, d'ailleurs, par une communication officielle du Gouvernement Princier, sont d'autant plus graves qu'ils coïncident avec le départ de son Chargé d'Affaires. M. Voukovitch a quitté hier Constantinople parce que le Gouvernement

Impérial n'a pas voulu démentir officiellement et sans examen préalable le contenu de mon télégramme du 14 Juin.

Lorsque le Chargé d'Affaires est venu, d'ordre de son Gouvernement, me demander un démenti pareil, je lui ai dit que, sans avoir à douter de l'exactitude des renseignements transmis par les autorités Impériales, la Sublime Porte proposait l'institution d'une Commission Mixte d'Enquête à l'effet de se rendre sur les lieux et de tirer l'affaire au clair. Cette proposition était bien faite pour écarter tout sujet de dissentiment. Malheureusement, elle a été déclinée par le Monténégro, qui a rappelé M. Voukovitch.

Je vous prie d'entretenir de cette affaire le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et de lui dire combien la Sublime Porte regrette une détermination qu'il n'a pas dépendu d'elle de prévenir.

Nous nous en remettons aux sentiments de justice des Puissances de juger entre notre conduite et l'attitude tranchante que le Prince Nicolas a cru devoir ratifier.

No. 558.

Memorandum communicated by Count Hengelmüller July 26, 1880.

OUR Representative in Cettinjé telegraphs that a troop of Montenegrins have attacked and burnt the villages, Gosideni and Mátayos, occupied by the Albanians.

One Montenegrin was killed and five wounded.

Prince Nikita has ordered the punishment of his guilty subjects.

July 25, 1880.

No. 559.

Memorandum communicated by Count Hengelmüller July 26, 1880.

IN reply to the proposition made through Sir Henry Elliot on the 19th instant, Baron Haymerle directs me to inform Lord Granville that we are prepared to let our Ambassador in Constantinople sign a Protocol by which the Governments take the engagement not to seek by their action, in view of the execution of the Berlin Treaty with regard to the Greek and Montenegrin frontier questions, any gain of territory, exclusive influence, or commercial privileges for their subjects by which all the other Powers should not equally profit.

July 25, 1880.

No. 560.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 37.) *Foreign Office, July 26, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

CAN you make any suggestions as to the application to Albania or any portions of it of the Statute to be drawn up under Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin? The work of the Commission is advancing rapidly, and an early answer would be desirable.

No. 561.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 5.) *Foreign Office, July 26, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR No. 27.

I have asked Mr. Green by telegraph for suggestions.

No. 562.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 432.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 26, 1880, 6 P.M.*

YOUR No. 64.

Express satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at learning that Prince Bismarck consents to send ship at once to Mediterranean.

No. 563.

Earl Granville to Mr. Macdonell.[*]

(No. 380.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 26, 1880, 8 P.M.*

ASK the Government to which you are accredited if they concur in draft collective note respecting Montenegro repeated to you in my telegram to Sir H. Elliot No. 380 of the 22nd instant.

No. 564.

Colonel Trotter (for Major-General Sir E. Hamley) to Earl Granville.—(Received July 26, 10 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Erzeroum, July 26, 1880.*

COMMISSION at Karaourgan. Russian Commissioner insists on erection of boundary pillars as we go on, which may delay me and my party several weeks to no purpose. Weather clearly has nothing to do with placing these pillars. I wish Commission to complete demarcation of frontier by verification of map and tracing the line after viewing the ground, so that I may depart and leave others to place boundary marks. Turkish Commissioner is willing. Might not Russian Government be requested to instruct its Commissioner to do this?

No. 565.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 26, 10·30 P.M.)

(No. 91. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, July 26, 1880, 6·45 P.M.*

THE President of the Council yesterday invited Turkish Minister to call on him. Signor Cairoli requested him to recommend at once to the Porte, in the strongest terms, the absolute necessity of an immediate execution of its engagements towards Montenegro, by which means Turkey may yet escape complications of the utmost gravity. His Excellency tenders this advice in the interest not only of Turkey, but of peace in general.

No. 566.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 26, 11 P.M.)

(No. 115.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July 26, 1880, 6 P.M.*

REFERENCE to your No. 380. Russian Government is willing to join in guarantee of Mussulman property in the districts which will be ceded to Greece.

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[*] Also to Mr. Adams (No. 321), Lord Odo Russell (No. 335), and the Earl of Dufferin (No. 419).

No. 567.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 324.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, July 26, 1880.

YOURS No. 140.

Sir A. Paget, who has just arrived in England, doubts any intrigue on part of Italian Government. On first receiving Turkish counter-project respecting Montenegrin frontier Italian Foreign Minister was favourably disposed, supposing that it could be carried out at once. His Excellency altered his opinion, however, after consultation with us and upon receiving Count Corti's telegram.

No. 568.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 298.)
Foreign Office, July 26, 1880.

Sir,

THE Greek Minister at this Court has on several occasions expressed to me the serious view which he takes of the attempts made by the Bulgarian Exarch at Constantinople to obtain power to appoint Bishops over the Bulgarian communities throughout the Ottoman Empire, and I inclose copy of a note which he has addressed to me on this subject, to which I have to call your Excellency's attention.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 569.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 299.)
Foreign Office, July 26, 1880.

Sir,

I APPROVE the steps taken by you to induce the Turkish Ministers to reassemble a Parliament, in view of the difficulties in the way of such a measure which have been represented to your Excellency, as reported in your despatch No. 128 of the 11th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 570.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 300. Secret.)
Foreign Office, July 26, 1880.

Sir,

ON receiving your Excellency's telegram of the 24th instant, referring to the possible existence of secret communications between the Porte and the Italian Government with regard to the cession to be made to Montenegro, I communicated on the subject with Sir A. Paget, who has recently arrived in this country.

His Excellency's impression appeared to me, however, that the Italian Government had not acted otherwise than in a straightforward manner in the matter of the Turkish counter-proposal. The Italian Foreign Minister had, he said, been favourably disposed towards it at first, supposing that it could be carried out at once, but had altered his opinion after consultation with Her Majesty's Government, and upon receipt of a telegram from Count Corti strongly recommending that the latest agreement with England should be adhered to.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* No. 244.

No. 571.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 433.)
Foreign Office, July 26, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE to request your Excellency to express to Prince Hohenlohe the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt, from your despatch No. 328 of the 24th instant, that the German Government have decided to despatch a man-of-war without delay to the Mediterranean.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 572.

*Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.**

(No. 408.)
Foreign Office, July 26, 1880.

Sir,

I INCLOSE copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Sir H. Elliot, containing the draft of the collective note which it is proposed that the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople should present to the Porte, calling upon it to bring about an arrangement of the Montenegrin frontier question without further delay.†

I have to request that you will lay this note before the Government to which your Excellency is accredited, and inquire whether they concur in it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 573.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 35.)
Foreign Office, July 26, 1880.

My Lord,

I APPROVE your proceedings on the occasion of the 3rd Meeting of the Commission during the discussion of the Turkish Projet de Loi for the various provinces of the Empire, as reported in your Lordship's despatch No. 36 of the 28th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 574.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 52.)
Buyukdéré, July 16, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the compte-rendu of the sixth meeting of the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

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* Also to the Earl of Dufferin, Lord Odo Russell, and Lord Lyons.
† No. 487.

Inclosure in No. 574.

Compte-rendu.—*Séance No. 6, tenue le* $\frac{17 \text{ Juin}}{29 \text{ Juillet}}$, 1880 (28 *Rédjeb*, 1297), *à la Maison d'Abro Effendi, à Thérapia.*

Présidence de son Excellence Assim Pacha.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M de Braunschweig, Secrétaire de l'Ambassade Impériale d'Allemagne à Constantinople.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
Le Baron de Kosjek, Conseiller de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale Apostolique à Constantinople.

Pour la France—
M. Aubaret, Consul-Général.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Lord E. Fitzmaurice, Membre du Parlement.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni, Premier Drogman de la Légation d'Italie à Constantinople.

Pour la Russie—
M. Hitrovo, Conseiller d'Etat actuel, Consul-Général.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha, Vizir, Membre du Sénat ;
Abro Effendi, Fonctionnaire de Premier Rang, Première Classe, Conseiller d'Etat.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure.

Le compte-rendu de la précédente séance, lu par M. Séon, est adopté.

Abro Effendi prie le bureau de faire les changements et additions suivants au compte-rendu No. 3, qu'il a consignés dans la note ci-dessous :

A la page 2, ligne 16 : Après les mots "ceux de Turquie qui" ajouter "ne peuvent s'associer à cette déclaration et qui" . . . . .

A la page 3, ligne 37 : Après les mots "élaborer un règlement spécial" ajouter "et séparé."

A la page 8, ligne 32 : Après les mots "projet de lois soumis" ajouter "à l'avis de la Commission," &c. A la ligne 33, remplacer le mot "Crétois" par ceux "de la Crète." Rayer dans les lignes 34 et 35 les mots : "par suite des particularités distinctives qu'offre l'Ile de Crète" : et remplacer ces mots par "car l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin ne vise que des règlements analogues à celui de Crète. L'analogie ne peut comporter une assimilation absolue, mais quelque rapport ou quelque ressemblance avec le règlement de la Crète."

" Abro Effendi fait observer aussi que le Projet préparé par le Gouvernement Impérial est calqué sur la Loi Organique de la Roumélie Orientale, votée par la Commission Européenne. Le Gouvernement a pris également en considération et la loi de la Crète et celle de la Roumélie Orientale, dans leurs parties applicables aux autres provinces de la Turquie d'Europe."

A la page 9 : Changer en entier le deuxième alinéa comme suit :

"Relativement à la proposition de M. le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne, son Excellence Assim Pacha dit que, pour Salonique, on pourrait donner un Tableau contenant les recettes et les dépenses de ce vilayet. Mais quant à Andrinople, cette province ayant été éprouvée par suite de la dernière guerre, il ne peut être donné aucun chiffre même approximatif."

L'ordre du jour appelle le vote sur la proposition du Commissaire d'Italie, relative aux pétitions.

Le Chevalier Vernoni propose l'amendement suivant à sa proposition précédente et espère que tous ses collègues voudront bien s'y rallier.

"Le Président est tenu de communiquer à la Commission les renseignements contenus dans les pétitions qui lui seront adressées, en tant qu'ils sont de nature à éclairer la Commission sur les matières se rattachant à l'examen du Projet de Loi, et qui ne sont pas contraires au Traité de Berlin."

Abro Effendi réitère ses observations à ce sujet et dit que la Commission ne saurait, dans la capitale de l'Empire Ottoman, accepter des pétitions signées par des sujets de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan. Il déclare, conséquemment, que les Commissaires Ottomans se trouvent dans l'impossibilité d'adhérer, même, à cet amendement.

M. Hitrovo développe, dans son discours (voir Annexe No. 1 au Protocole 6), les raisons pour lesquelles la première proposition du Chevalier Vernoni lui semblait plus conforme, tant au but de la Commission, qu'à l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin. Toutefois, le Commissaire de Russie, par esprit de conciliation, exprime son adhésion à l'amendement du Commissaire d'Italie, dans l'espoir que cet amendement obtiendra l'unanimité.

Le Baron de Kosjek déclare ne pas attacher une si grande importance à la question des pétitions. Il pense que la Commission ne manque pas d'autres moyens, et même nombreux, de s'éclairer sur ce qui fait l'objet de ses travaux.

Le Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie s'associe néanmoins à l'amendement présenté par son collègue d'Italie, vu que les pétitions pourraient toutefois, ainsi qu'il l'a déjà déclaré à l'avant-dernière séance, contenir des renseignements dont la connaissance serait de nature à faciliter l'accomplissement de la tâche dévolue à la Commission, en conformité de l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin.

Le Baron de Kosjek ajoute que s'il a voté entièrement contre l'amendement proposé par Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, à la séance du 30 Juin, c'est que l'acceptation des pétitions, sans restriction aucune, lui paraissait de nature à pouvoir créer dans les vilayets une agitation fort peu désirable, et à mettre la Commission en danger de sortir des limites du mandat qui lui a été assigné. Ces inconvénients sont évités dans l'amendement que M. Vernoni a proposé. En outre, le dit amendement ne peut porter atteinte à la dignité du Gouvernement Ottoman, puisqu'il réserve au Président, qui est un haut fonctionnaire Ottoman, un certain droit de contrôle indirect.

M. Hitrovo pense également que les pétitions ne peuvent être reçues que si elles ont un rapport direct avec l'objet des travaux de la Commission. De sorte que toute pétition, dit-il, qui serait le résultat d'une agitation locale et qui aurait un but subversif, pourrait être écartée.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha rappelle que la tâche de la Commission en Roumélie Orientale était de préparer l'organisation de cette province et d'administrer ses finances ; tandis que le mandat de notre Commission, dit-il, se limite à l'émission d'un avis. La Commission n'ayant que ce mandat, elle le dépasserait si elle recevait des pétitions. C'est au Gouvernement Impérial à recevoir de pareilles requêtes et non à ses Délégués au sein de la Commission.

Le Chevalier Vernoni insiste sur l'acceptation de l'amendement qu'il a proposé. Il rappelle que l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin n'a pas été exécuté scrupuleusement, que l'élément indigène et provincial qui, dans l'esprit des signataires de ce Traité, devait élaborer les Projets de Réformes, n'a pas été suffisamment consulté et que, par suite, les vœux et les besoins des populations restent inconnus. Si la Commission refuse à ces populations le droit d'émettre leur opinion et d'exprimer leurs désirs, elle aura l'air de se refuser à apprendre le véritable état des choses.

M. de Braunschweig acceptera l'amendement de son collègue d'Italie, car il n'y trouve rien de blessant pour les Commissaires Ottomans.

Abro Effendi fait remarquer que si les populations ont des requêtes à présenter, elles peuvent tout aussi bien les remettre aux Valis ou à toute autre autorité Impériale qui les transmettront à la Sublime Porte. D'ailleurs, ajoute-t-il, la réception des pétitions a fait perdre un temps précieux en Roumélie Orientale et n'a produit aucun résultat pratique : les Protocoles le constatent. Si la Commission suivait la même voie, elle entraverait la marche de ses travaux. Il nous incombe donc d'éviter la reproduction de pareils incidents qui ne peuvent que retarder l'accomplissement de notre tâche.

Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice dit qu'Abro Effendi se trompe s'il croit que les Commissaires désirent discuter chaque pétition séparément. La Commission ne doit, dit-il, recevoir des requêtes que pour connaître les vœux des populations.

Le Commissaire de France déclare ne pas attacher à la question des pétitions l'importance qu'on lui attribue ; mais, pour ne pas se séparer de ses collègues, il se rallie, en dernier lieu, à l'amendement présenté par le Commissaire d'Italie.

Le Président met aux voix l'amendement du Chevalier Vernoni.

Six Commissaires l'acceptent.
Les Commissaires Ottomans le rejettent.
Son Excellence Assim Pacha dépose sur le bureau deux exemplaires Français de la suite du Projet de Réformes, depuis l'Article 101 jusqu'à l'Article 228, ainsi que le texte Turc de ce Projet.
L'ordre du jour appelle la suite de la discussion des 100 Articles.
Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 36.

Article 36.

Sur la proposition de *Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice*, les mots "l'administration générale des sommes encaissées" sont supprimés, et l'Article est adopté à l'unanimité dans la forme suivante :—

"Art. 36. Les Valis contrôlent la perception de tous les revenus et impôts du vilayet, ainsi que l'action et la conduite générale des percepteurs."

Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 37.

Article 37.

La Commission, sur la proposion de *M. Aubaret*, décide, à l'unanimité, le renvoi de cet Article à la discussion du Titre 21 du Projet.

Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 38.

Article 38.

Sur la proposition de *Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice*, les deux premiers alinéas de cet Article sont supprimés à la majorité de six voix ; et le troisième alinéa est, en supprimant la dernière phrase, accepté à la même majorité.
MM. les Commissaires Ottomans votent pour le maintien intégral du texte primitif de l'Article 38.
Le texte de cet Article, tel qu'il a été adopté par la majorité de la Commission, est donc le suivant :—

"Art. 38. Le Vali et le Defterdar sont, en commun, responsables dans les affaires de finances et de comptabilité."

Le Président donne lecture des Articles 39 et 40.

Articles 39 *et* 40.

Les Articles 39 et 40 sont adoptés à l'unanimité.
A l'occasion de ce dernier Article, *le Baron de Kusiek* dit qu'il désire sincèrement la réalisation du programme que cet Article trace aux Valis. *Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie* espère que l'Article 40, transporté sur le terrain pratique, ne deviendra pas une lettre-morte, comme l'ont été d'autres réformes aussi parfaites en théorie.
Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 41.

Article 41.

Cet Article qui, par suite d'une petite modification introduite par M. Hitrovo, prend la forme suivante, est adopté à l'unanimité.

"Art. 41. Sont surtout du devoir des Valis la conservation de la sécurité et de la tranquillité publiques des habitants par l'intermédiaire du Chef de la Police, l'arrestation et la détention des coupables, et l'exécution de toutes sortes d'enquêtes, et de contrôle au sujet de la sécurité publique et municipale."

Les Articles 42, 43, 44, et 45 sont adoptés à l'unanimité.
L'examen de l'Article 46 est, à l'unanimité, renvoyé à la fin de la discussion du Projet.
Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 47.

Article 47.

Cet Article, dont on supprime le dernier alinéa, est adopté à l'unanimité comme suit :—

"Art. 47. Les affaires civiles du vilayet sont administrées par les principaux fonctionnaires qui sont :

"(*a*). Le Mustéchar, (*b*) le Defterdar, (*c*) le Directeur de la Justice, (*d*) le Mektoubdji, ou Directeur de la Correspondance, (*e*) Directeur des Travaux Publics, de l'Agriculture, et du Commerce, (*f*) le Directeur de l'Instruction Publique, (*g*) l'Alay Bey, ou Colonel des Gendarmes."

Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 48.

Article 48.

L'amendement ci-dessous, proposé par M. Aubaret, en remplacement de cet Article, est accepté à l'unanimité :—

"Art. 48. Le Conseil d'Administration est composé du Vali, de son Mustéchar, du Defterdar, du Directeur de la Justice, du Directeur de l'Instruction Publique, du Directeur des Travaux Publics, de l'Agriculture, et du Commerce, du Mufti, des Chefs religieux des autres Communautés, et de huit membres élus par le Conseil Général parmi ses membres.
"Le Conseil se réunira sous la Présidence du Vali et, en son absence, sous celle du Mustéchar.

Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice, en s'associant à la proposition de M. Aubaret, d'après laquelle les Chefs religieux sont admis au Conseil d'Administration, motive son vote ainsi qu'il suit :

En principe, le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne est hostile à toute idée de privilèges de cette nature. Mais il faut, dit-il, reconnaître les faits : les Chefs religieux ont toujours possédé des privilèges dans l'Empire Ottoman, privilèges qu'il serait dangereux d'attaquer ; car on susciterait de la sorte des veilléités d'opposition qui seraient regrettables. Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice ajoute qu'il est, de plus, désirable de protéger les Israélites. La présence du Rabbin au Conseil d'Administration est d'autant plus nécessaire qu'il n'arrivera pas souvent qu'un Juif soit élu au Conseil Général. L'Empire Ottoman a, il est vrai, toujours témoigné une grande libéralité envers les Juifs, mais ces sentiments libéraux n'ont pas encore pénétré l'esprit de toutes les populations de l'Orient.
Quant à l'union du Comité Permanent au Conseil d'Administration, le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne, ayant, lui-même, déjà fait cette proposition à la quatrième séance de la Commission, voudrait que le Mémoire qu'il a lu sur cette question fût annexé au compte-rendu de la séance d'aujourd'hui. (Voir Annexe No. 2 au compte-rendu No. 6.)
Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, et de Russie constatent que les Israélites ont, de tout temps, été traités dans l'Empire Ottoman sur le pied d'une parfaite égalité avec les autres communautés religieuses.
Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 49.

Article 49.

Les Commissaires de France et de la Grande Bretagne proposent, à la place de cet Article, l'amendement suivant, qui est adopté à l'unanimité :

"Art. 49. Le Vali soumettra au Conseil d'Administration toutes les questions qui sont de la compétence du dit Conseil, en matière d'administration provinciale, et en exécutera les décisions."

MM. les Commissaires Ottomans n'adoptent cet amendement que sous la réserve de définir, en son lieu et place, la compétence du Conseil Administratif, pour que le pouvoir exécutif ne soit pas entravé par l'immixtion de ce Conseil, et pour que la responsabilité du Vali ne vienne pas à être diminuée au détriment d'une bonne administration.
Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 50.

Article 50.

L'Article 50 est supprimé à l'unanimité.
Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice propose le nouvel Article suivant :

"Art. 50. Quand le Vali, avec l'assentiment de son Conseil d'Administration, aura transmis une demande à un Ministre, et que celui-ci n'y aura pas répondu dans un délai de trois mois, le Vali devra interpréter ce silence comme affirmation de sa demande et comme autorisation à procéder dès lors à l'exécution des mesures nécessaires."

Six Commissaires acceptent cet Article.
MM. les Commissaires Ottomans le repoussent.

Les Articles 51, 52, et 53 sont adoptés à l'unanimité.
Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 54.

Article 54.

Sur la proposition de M. de Kosjek, le second alinéa étant réservé, le premier est adopté à l'unanimité comme Article 54.

"Art. 54. Aux époques désignées par le Defterdar, l'Inspecteur des Finances fera une tournée dans le vilayet pour surveiller l'état des fonctionnaires des finances et des percepteurs et contrôler la comptabilité, examiner les comptes des Caisses de l'Administration et entendre les plaintes des contribuables. Cette tournée aura lieu après la publication du cahier de répartition des impôts."

Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 55.

Article 55.

Sur la proposition de M. Aubaret, la Commission décide, à la majorité de 6 voix, d'adopter les amendements d'Andrinople à l'Article 55, de telle sorte que cet Article reste ainsi conçu :

"Art. 55. En outre des matières indiquées dans les lois et Règlements du Ministère de la Justice, les Directeurs de la Justice auront les attributions suivantes :

"1. De désigner, quand cela sera nécessaire, en matières pénales, un Procureur-Général provisoire auprès des Tribunaux qui n'en auraient pas ;

"2. D'administrer les maisons d'arrêt et les prisons, et la réorganisation de leur état intérieur ;

"3. De préparer les Règlements y relatifs pour être soumis aux délibérations du Conseil Général ;

"4. De faire publier, par le journal du vilayet, les lois et les Règlements de la justice ;

"5. D'opérer la révision des Tableaux qui seront dressés mensuellement pour faire connaître les taxes et autres redevances perçues par les Tribunaux ;

"6. De faire exécuter les peines édictées ;

"7. D'examiner les pétitions demandant une remise des peines, dresser les rapports y relatifs et en porter les conclusions à la connaissance du Vali, pour qu'il les soumette au Ministère de la Justice ;

"8. De surveiller les fonctionnaires et le personnel du service judiciaire ;

"9. De demander la destitution des fonctionnaires de la justice qui ne remplissent pas convenablement leurs devoirs ou qui n'observent point les ordres à eux donnés conformément à la loi ;

"10. De faire dresser les statistiques concernant les Tribunaux ;

"11. De donner leur avis relativement à la réglementation des Tribunaux, aux prisons et aux peines, ainsi qu'à la procédure civile et commerciale."

MM. les Commissaires Ottomans se réservent sur cet Article.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée à Samedi, 10 Juillet, la suite de la discussion des 100 Articles.

La séance est levée à 5 heures et quart.

(Signé) ASSIM.
ABRO.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KOSJEK.
AUBARET.
ED. FITZMAURICE.
VERNONI.
HITROVO.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) SEON.
C. CARTWRIGHT.
V. DE GRITZENKY.
M. RECHID.

Annexe No. 1.

Discours de M. Hitrovo.

J'attache une importance toute particulière à la question des pétitions et je pense que le premier vote, qui a eu lieu sur cette question dans notre avant dernière séance, et qui s'est trouvé être nul par suite du partage des voix, a été trop précipité. Je pense que ceux de MM. les Commissaires qui ont voté contre, n'avaient pas eu en vue les considérations très-importantes, à mon avis, sur lesquelles je me permettrai d'attirer leur attention.

D'abord, je me fais un devoir de relever l'inexactitude des renseignements qui nous ont été fournis sur l'admission des pétitions, par nos prédécesseurs, par devant la Commission de la Roumélie Orientale, dont nous sommes la continuation.

Messieurs les Délégués Ottomans nous ont dit que le principe de l'admission des pétitions n'avait été accepté que parce que la Commission était réunie alors à Philippopoli, et qu'aujourd'hui ce principe ne saurait trouver place, la Commission siégeant à Constantinople, dans la capitale même de l'Empire.

Vérification faite aux archives, je trouve que c'est le $\frac{15}{30}$ Septembre, dans sa première séance tenue à Canlidja, dans le conak même du Grand Vizir, que la Commission a admis le principe de l'acceptation des pétitions, et établi le mode de leur réception en nommant, à cet effet, une Sous-Commission dont un des Délégués Ottomans actuels, Abro Effendi, avait fait partie. Après cela, pendant longtemps encore, la Commission a continué de siéger à Constantinople, et il n'est venu à l'esprit de personne de trouver que cette acceptation des pétitions pût être blessante pour la dignité du Gouvernement Ottoman, ni pour celle de l'autorité Russe, qui administrait en ce temps-là la Roumélie et quelques autres provinces de la Turquie. On tenait à ce que la Commission fût amplement éclairée en remplissant le mandat important dont elle était investie.

On nous a dit que le mandat de la Commission, dans sa phase actuelle, était autre que celui qu'elle avait eu à remplir précédemment. Mais je ne vois pas pourquoi une Commission devrait être moins éclairée et moins renseignée quand elle doit émettre un avis que quand elle doit élaborer un Projet.

Enfin, tournant toujours dans le même cercle d'argumentation, on nous a dit que la question des pétitions était inadmissible en principe, parce qu'elle était incompatible avec la dignité du Gouvernement qui nous offre en ce moment l'hospitalité et dont nous sommes les hôtes.

Je ne m'arrêterai pas à cette dernière considération, car, par respect même pour le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan, je ne puis admettre un seul instant la supposition qu'il pût vouloir abuser de son hospitalité pour entraver la liberté d'information d'une Commission Européenne, appelée à émettre un avis raisonné et bien pesé, Commission réunie à cet effet sur l'invitation même de ce Gouvernement. Reconnaissant au contraire l'équité du Gouvernement Ottoman, je suis persuadé, qu'en appelant notre concours à la grande œuvre de ses réformes administratives, il ne peut que désirer de nous voir éclairés et informés de toutes façons.

Pour ce qui est des ménagements que nous devons à nos collègues Ottomans, qui nous ont déclaré qu'ils se trouveraient obligés de se retirer toutes les fois qu'on voudrait lire une pétition quelconque, il me semble que leurs susceptibilités sont exagérées. Ils n'auraient rien à craindre si on maintenait les dispositions établies par nos prédécesseurs sur la proposition de M. de Kallay, en vertu de laquelle la Sous-Commission était tenue de rejeter *à priori* toute pétition qui serait contraire au Traité de Berlin. Je proposerais même d'ajouter à ces dispositions : "et toutes celles qui par la forme ou par le fond seraient admissibles."

Il me reste à dire pourquoi j'attache une si grande importance à la question de principe de l'admission des pétitions.

J'attache une importance extrême à cette question, parce qu'il me semble qu'elle constitue le fond de notre mandat. Je n'ai pas besoin de répéter les termes de l'Article XXIII, que tous nous connaissons par cœur. Cet Article avait en vue, avant tout, la consultation des vœux des populations par la représentation large qu'il voulait réserver à l'élément indigène au sein des Commissions locales qui devaient élaborer elles-mêmes les Projets de Réformes. Or, nous savons tous et nous l'avons officiellement constaté, que ces dispositions de l'Article XXIII n'ont pas été remplies. Avons-nous le droit, dans ces circonstances, de nous priver, par le rejet des pétitions, du seul moyen qui nous reste de combler cette regrettable lacune ?

Pour ma part, les instructions dont j'ai été muni ne sont guère secrètes, et, à la rigueur, j'aurais pu parfaitement les déposer sur cette table. Mon Gouvernement m'autorise

de m'associer à toute mesure qui aurait pour but d'améliorer le sort des populations de la Turquie d'Europe dans les limites et dans les sens du Traité de Berlin. Je ne pense pas que les instructions de mes collègues, sous ce rapport, puissent différer considérablement des miennes. Mais, pour tacher de prouver la nécessité de l'admission des pétitions, je me permettrai de me servir des instructions de l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre qui ont été dernièrement publiées. J'espère que mon honorable collègue de la Grande Bretagne ne m'en voudra pas de me servir des instructions de Mr. Goschen, qui ne sont pas un secret, puisqu'elles ont été livrées à la publicité.

Dans ces instructions, je trouve un passage qui se rapporte directement à nos travaux actuels, et qui répond parfaitement, me paraît-il, à la question qui nous occupe en ce moment. Ce passage des instructions de Mr. Goschen constitue, à mon avis, l'exposé le plus clair, le plus précis, et le plus succinct de notre mandat. Voilà pourquoi je me permettrai de le citer textuellement:—

"La Commission de la Roumélie Orientale," y est-il dit, "qui est sur le point d'être reconstituée et de se rassembler à Constantinople, aura à délibérer sur les Projets de Lois organiques pour les provinces Européennes pour autant que des Commissions Spéciales Locales ont fait rapport sur ces projets, et il suffira pour le présent de laisser l'examen de l'administration des provinces d'Europe à cette Commission. Le seul désir du Gouvernement de la Reine est que les nouvelles lois soient conçues de manière à rendre égale justice à toutes les classes de la communauté, avec une aussi large mesure d'autonomie locale ('self-government') que la condition des provinces le permettra, et avec des garanties suffisantes contre la neutralisation des réformes par l'influence exercée à Constantinople."

Nous ne pouvons donc pas nous borner à examiner les Projets de Lois, ni même à les faire concorder avec les vœux que nous trouvons exprimés dans les Rapports ("Mazbatas") des Commission Locales, dont nous ne connaissons que les amendements qui nous ont été produits par la Porte; nous devons aussi, et surtout, nous renseigner scrupuleusement sur le véritable état actuel des provinces. Où donc trouverions-nous des renseignements plus directs à ce sujet que dans les pétitions que nous pourrions recevoir de l'intérieur?

On sait combien cet état de choses, dans les provinces, est susceptible de subir de continuels changements. Pour ma part, je me trouve depuis vingt-deux ans en Turquie, et je n'ai nullement la prétention d'avancer que je sois parfaitement renseigné; je reconnais, au contraire, qu'il me reste tous les jours quelque chose à apprendre.

Pour ce qui est du caractère informatif des pétitions, autant qu'il m'en souvient, il a été dit dans notre avant-dernière séance que chacun de nous était libre de recevoir les pétitions qui lui seraient adressées, et de les communiquer, à titre de renseignement, à ses collègues.

Je ne puis pas admettre qu'un tel mode de procéder fût légal ni équitable, ni qu'il puisse remplacer l'acceptation officielle des pétitions par la Commission.

D'abord, il me semble que chacun de nous, séparément, n'a pas le droit et peut n'avoir pas le désir de recevoir des pétitions et de les communiquer dans le creux de l'oreille à ses collègues. Et puis je pense que personne ne nous adressera des pétitions en particulier et personnellement; elles ne sauraient être adressées qu'à la Commission ou bien au Président.

D'ailleurs, chacun de nous, séparé, n'est rien vis-à-vis de cet Article XXIII, qui est notre unique raison d'être, et c'est seulement tous ensemble que nous constituons la personnalité de ce fondé de pouvoir que l'Europe, représentée par les Grandes Puissances, à daigné revêtir de sa confiance. En présence de la responsabilité qui nous incombe à ce titre, et, quelque désireux que nous puissions être de nous rendre agréables à nos collègues Ottomans, je ne crois pas que nous ayons le droit d'émettre notre avis avant d'avoir épuisé tous les moyens d'information et d'instruction qui sont en notre pouvoir. Je ne pense pas, qu'après avoir constaté que les populations n'ont pas été consultées, il soit de la dignité de la Commission Européenne de rejeter leurs pétitions et de leur fermer la seule porte qui leur reste ouverte pour lui faire connaître leurs vœux et leurs espérances.

En conséquence, quelle que soit la décision de la Commission, je demande que ma déclaration soit annexée au compte-rendu de la séance, et je le fais pour mettre ma responsabilité à couvert.

En présence de toutes les considérations que je viens d'énumérer, je déclare que toutes mes préférences restent acquises à la proposition précédemment émise par notre honorable collègue d'Italie, proposition consistant à maintenir le règlement établi par nos prédécesseurs sur la question des pétitions.

Cependant, comme le Chevalier Vernoni vient de proposer un amendement à sa première proposition, et, cela, dans un esprit de conciliation et dans l'espoir de réunir

un vote unanime, comme, d'un autre côté, je constate que cette nouvelle proposition maintient, du moins, le principe de l'acceptation des pétitions, je me rallie à cette proposition et je vote en faveur de l'amendement de mon collègue d'Italie.

Annexe No. 2.

Mémoire sur le Comité Permanent, lu par le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne à la Troisième Séance, le 30 Juin, 1880.

L'idée qui a présidé à la formation du Comité Permanent de l'Assemblée Générale de la Roumélie Orientale, ne semble pas avoir été celle de confiance dans la population de ce pays. Si on avait voulu manifester cette confiance, il eût été aisé de former un lien direct entre l'Assemblée et le Gouvernement de la Province, analogue à celui qui existe dans tous les pays qui possèdent un vrai système Parlementaire. Dans ces pays, les Ministres, même s'ils ne sont pas membres de l'Assemblée, en dépendent indirectement. Dans la Roumélie Orientale, au contraire, on a voulu séparer entièrement l'Assemblée de la Direction des Affaires, afin de pouvoir confier à des étrangers, au moins pour plusieurs années, la gestion des affaires de la province. De cette façon, on se proposait d'éloigner les membres de l'Assemblée des tentations du pouvoir et des appas que pourraient présenter à leur imagination les Bureaux de l'Administration. Dans ce but, on a emprunté à la Constitution Américaine et à la loi des Conseils Généraux, telle qu'elle existe en France, l'idée du Comité Permanent. Quel en a été le résultat? Celui qu'on aurait pu prévoir. L'Assemblée n'avait pas le droit de faire tomber du pouvoir ceux des Directeurs qui lui déplaisaient, par les moyens légitimes et en usage dans les pays Parlementaires. Mais elle possédait un pouvoir presque absolu sur le Budget, et, par l'entremise de son Comité Permanent, elle s'est arrogé un contrôle vexatoire et dangereux sur toute l'Administration.

Les Directeurs se sont ainsi trouvés en face d'un pouvoir occulte et tracassier, qu'appuyait cependant l'opinion publique.

Il en est résulté que la province a passé par tous les maux, qui découlent inévitablement d'un système de Gouvernement double, à savoir: les rixes et les luttes perpétuelles au sein de l'Administration, et l'incertitude et les soupçons dans l'esprit public.

Donc, on doit chercher à éviter ces mêmes dangers pour les autres provinces de la Turquie d'Europe.

Pour atteindre ce but, il ne faut pas reculer devant les résultats naturels de l'établissement d'une Assemblée élue et représentative.

Je proposerais donc d'abolir le Comité Permanent et de le remplacer en donnant à l'Assemblée le droit de nommer des membres du Conseil d'Administration, jusqu'à concurrence du nombre des Directeurs y siégeant de droit.

En même temps, il serait à désirer que le Vali possédât le droit—droit qu'il exercerait facultativement—de choisir les Directeurs entre les membres élus de l'Assemblée et que, d'un autre côté, ceux des Directeurs qui ne seraient pas membres élus de l'Assemblée en fussent toujours membres *ex-officio*.

De cette façon un lien serait établi entre l'Assemblée et le Pouvoir Exécutif, répondant aux besoins des provinces et conforme à l'esprit des libertés modernes.

Si la province, comme il est d'ailleurs probable, a besoin, pendant sa jeunesse administrative, des lumières et des connaissances des spécialistes étrangers, il serait facile d'invoquer leur appui, comme Sous-Directeurs ou Conseillers des Chefs d'Administration.

Il serait pourtant désirable de faire une exception en faveur de la gendarmerie qui paraît devoir être placée, au moins pour quelque temps, sous la haute direction d'un officier étranger.

No. 575.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 27.)

(No. 53.)

My Lord, *Buyukdéré, July* 16, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the first forty Articles of the Projet de Loi as amended by the Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 575.

Loi des Vilayets de la Roumélie.

Titre Ier.—*Des Droits Généraux des Habitants.*

ARTICLE Ier. Les habitants de chaque vilayet jouissent des droits déterminés par la Constitution, par les autres lois de l'Empire, ainsi que par la présente Loi des Vilayets.

Art. 2. Les habitants de chaque vilayet sont égaux devant la loi. Ils ont mêmes droits et mêmes devoirs sans distinction de race ni de religion.

Art. 3. Chacun exercera librement son culte et sa religion reconnus dans les Etats Ottomans, et trouvera une protection égale de la part de l'autorité dans l'exercice des cérémonies religieuses. Tous les cultes et religions sont soumis aux lois générales, et ce qui se rapporte à leurs cérémonies est soumis aux règlements de police.

Art. 4. La liberté individuelle est à l'abri de toute atteinte.

Art. 4 suite (5, 6, et 7). *Renvoyés à la discussion du Titre XIV.*

Art. 8. *Supprimé (unanimité).*

Art. 9. Il ne peut y avoir d'autres monopoles que ceux établis législativement pour créer des revenus publics ou dans l'intérêt de la sécurité publique.

Art. 10. *Supprimé (majorité).*

Art. 11. Aucune somme d'argent ne peut être perçue à titre d'impôt, de taxe, ou sous toute autre dénomination, qu'en vertu d'une loi.

Art. 12. Chacun peut librement circuler dans toute l'étendue de l'Empire et établir son domicile partout où il lui plaît, à la condition cependant de ne pas violer les lois et règlements.

Art. 13. La propriété mobilière et immobilière de chacun est garantie; aucune expropriation ne peut avoir lieu que pour cause d'utilité publique dûment constatée, et ce, dans les circonstances et de la manière déterminées par la loi, et moyennant le paiement préalable de la valeur équivalente.

Art. 14. La confiscation des biens, la corvée et le *djérimé* (exaction sous forme de pénalité pécuniaire) sont prohibés. Cependant, en temps de guerre, les mesures qu'elle nécessite et les contributions levées légalement sont exceptées de cette disposition.

Art. 15. L'enseignement est libre. Il sera placé sous la haute surveillance de l'autorité. Cette surveillance sera, sans distinction, exercée sur toutes les écoles.

Art. 16. *Supprimé (unanimité).*

Art. 17. La presse est libre. La loi pourra en réprimer les abus. Les feuilles imprimées ne seront pas soumises à la censure avant leur publication.

Art. 18. Les terres appartenant à l'Etat seront données gratuitement aux vilayets pour y fonder des établissements d'utilité publique. Les terrains sans propriétaire, dans l'intérieur des villes et des villages, sont, dès à présent, cédés aux Cercles Municipaux.

Art. 19. *Renvoyé à l'unanimité à l'examen du Titre IV.*

Art. 20. Dans chaque vilayet quiconque possède les connaissances et la capacité exigée par la loi est admis, sans distinction de race ni de religion, aux fonctions publiques, y compris celles de Vali. (*Unanimité.*)

Lorsque la majorité est Musulmane, le Chef d'Administration sera Musulman, et là où la majorité est non-Musulmane, le Chef d'Administration sera non-Musulman. (*Majorité.*)

Seront préférés ceux parmi les Chef d'Administration, qui connaissent aussi la langue du pays, c'est-à-dire, la langue parlée par la majorité des habitants. (*Unanimité.*)

Cependant, nul ne pourra être Chef d'Administration dans son propre district ou arrondissement. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 21. La langue officielle est la langue Turque.

Parmi les Juges, ceux qui connaissent les langues locales seront préférablement nommés. Quant aux Juges d'Instruction ("Mustantik"), ils seront pris absolument parmi ceux qui possèdent ces langues.

Les requêtes, pétitions et toutes les pièces qui doivent être remises aux autorités administratives et judiciaires seront rédigées dans la langue parlée par les intéressés. Les procès-verbaux, sentences et mazbatas, qui en émaneront, seront rédigés en Turc et dans la langue parlée par les intéressés.

Devant les Tribunaux, les plaidoiries pourront être faites, au choix des intéressés, dans leur propre langue.

Les lois destinées à être promulguées dans les vilayets, les Ordonnances, Circulaires

et publications du Vali, ainsi que les autres Arrêtés, Circulaires et publications officielles intéressant le vilayet, seront rédigés dans la langue officielle Turque et dans les autres principales langues du pays. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 22. Des pétitions signées par une ou plusieurs personnes peuvent être présentées au Gouvernement; mais les corps reconnus par le Gouvernement auront seuls le droit d'en présenter au nom d'une communauté ou de la généralité des habitants.

Art. 23. Conformément aux dispositions qui seront indiquées plus loin, il sera constitué dans chaque vilayet une Assemblée Générale de vilayet dont la majorité des membres sera élue par les habitants.

Art. 24. Seront de la compétence exclusive de l'Assemblée du vilayet:

1. Les lois destinées à régler le fonctionnement de l'organisme administratif, judiciaire, et financier, créé par la présente loi.

2. Les lois d'impôts, c'est à dire les lois sur l'assiette et la répartition des impôts et taxes, sans toutefois en diminuer le montant principal.

3. Les lois destinées à régler l'évaluation, le recensement, et l'imposition des propriétés et des biens de rapport.

4. Les lois du Budget et celles portant approbation des comptes d'un exercice clos.

5. Les lois de la comptabilité du vilayet.

6. Les lois destinées à régler la perception des impôts.

7. Les lois touchant l'instruction publique.

8. Les lois sur les octrois, sur les mines, sur le régime des eaux et sur celui des forêts.

9. Les lois sur la voirie et celles sur la concession, la construction, et l'exploitation des chemins de fer d'intérêt provincial, ainsi que toutes les lois ayant trait à des travaux publics qui ne s'exécutent pas aux frais de l'Empire.

10. Les lois concernant l'agriculture, le commerce, l'industrie, les travaux publics, et les intérêts économiques généraux du vilayet.

11. Les lois relatives aux institutions de crédit.

12. Les rois réglant la gestion du domaine du vilayet.

13. Les lois touchant les hôpitaux, les orphelinats, les bureaux de bienfaisance, et l'assistance publique.

14. Les lois sur les dimes.

15. Les lois sur les prisons.

16. Les lois portant création d'un cadastre des propriétés territoriales situées dans le vilayet et celles réglant le régime des hypothèques et le système des expropriations pour cause d'utilité publique.

17. Les lois sur la gendarmerie et la police en prenant pour base la présente loi.

L'Assemblée délibère sur toutes les questions ci-dessus nommées.

Les lois seront soumises à l'approbation de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, qui les sanctionnera, si elles ne portent pas atteinte aux droits et aux principes de la législation de l'Empire. Si, dans la suite, il y avait à apporter des modifications à la présente loi, dans un intérêt purement local, ces modifications votées aux deux tiers des voix seraient également soumises à la sanction de la Sublime Porte.

La Sublime Porte se réserve de faire connaître sa décision sur tout Projet de Loi, soit directement, en donnant ou en refusant sa sanction, soit indirectement, en ne donnant aucune réponse.

Dans ce dernier cas, au bout d'un terme de quatre mois, datant du jour où le Projet de Loi aura été soumis au Vali pour être présenté à Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, le silence de la Sublime Porte sera interprété comme impliquant la sanction. (*Majorité.*)

Titre II.—*Des Valis.*

Art. 25. Les Valis sont nommés pour une période de cinq ans comme Représentants de Sa Majesté Impérial le Sultan et les plus hauts fonctionnaires du Pouvoir Exécutif dans les vilayets.

Ils sont autorisés à dresser et à publier des règlements administratifs relativement aux modes d'exécution des lois. (*Unanimité.*)

Si le Vali est Musulman, son Mustéchar sera Chrétien et *vice-versâ*. (*Majorité.*)

Art. 26. Les Valis sont responsables, devant le Gouvernement et la loi, de tous les actes relatifs à l'accomplissement de leurs fonctions. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 27. Les Valis, pendant leur absence provisoire du siège de leur Gouvernement, ou dans les cas d'empêchement dans l'exercice direct de leurs fonctions, ne peuvent être remplacés que par leur Mustéchar. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 28. L'état de siége peut être déclaré par le Gouverneur-Général, soit dans tout le vilayet, soit dans une ou plusieurs parties du vilayet.

1. Lorsque la population résiste à l'exécution d'une loi, d'un règlement, ou d'une Ordonnance légalement rendue, et que, après avoir été invitée à l'obéissance, elle persiste dans sa résistance.

2. Lorsqu'il se produit, au sein de la population, un mouvement armé ou des troubles graves, tendant à violer le droit public du vilayet, et que les organes ordinaires de l'autorité sont impuissants à rétablir l'ordre.

L'Ordonnance, proclamant l'état de siége, doit être motivée. Elle doit être portée immédiatement à la connaissance de la Sublime Porte. Elle doit être publiée dans toutes les communes où elle est applicable, et elle n'y a force légale qu'après sa publication.

L'état de siége doit être levé aussitôt que la cause qui l'a rendu nécessaire a cessé.

Les effets de l'état de siége seront déterminés par une loi de l'Empire. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 29. Les Valis, en leur qualité de Chefs du Pouvoir Exécutif, s'occuperont de la mise à exécution de toutes les lois et règlements, ainsi que de la préservation de la sécurité et de tranquillité publiques.

Les Valis nommeront les employés, dont le choix et la nomination rentrent dans leurs attributions, ainsi qu'il sera dit dans le titre à ce relatif. Ils ne pourront pas créer de nouveaux emplois, sans s'appuyer sur un règlement émanant de l'autorité compétente.

Tous les fonctionnaires, *sans exception*, sont sous les ordres du Vali et dépendent de lui. (*Unanimité.*)

(*Renvoyé à l'Article* 250.)

Art. 30. La gendarmerie et la police du vilayet se trouveront sous les ordres des Valis.

Les Commandants de ces corps, jusqu'au grade d'Adjudant-Major, seront nommés par les Valis. (*Majorité.*)

Art. 31. Les Valis convoquent les électeurs, conformément aux dispositions du Titre relatif à cette question, à l'élection des membres pour le Conseil Général, ainsi que pour les Conseils Administratifs, Municipaux et Communaux. Ils réunissent le Conseil Général et décident de la clôture des délibérations, lorsque son ordre du jour aura été épuisé dans les limites du terme légal. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 32. Les Valis soumettent au Conseil Général le budget des revenus et des dépenses, et lui font part des opérations qui ont eu lieu dans le cours de l'année précédente; ils mettent à exécution celles des décisions contenues dans le procès-verbal ("mazbata"), dressé par le Conseil Général, qui relèvent directement de leurs attributions; et ils soumettent aux Ministères respectifs, celles de ces décisions dont l'exécution est subordonnée à une autorisation, ainsi que cela est expliqué dans le Titre y relatif. (*Majorité.*)

Art. 33. Le Vali discute et arrête, dans le Conseil Administratif, les Statuts et Règlements des Sociétés Anonymes qui se constituent dans le vilayet.

Après les avoir fait approuver par le dit Conseil, il en autorise la formation et en donne avis au Ministère compétent. (*Majorité.*)

Art. 34. Les Valis exécutent les ordres qui leur sont adressés par le Gouvernement Central, dans les limites de la présente loi. Ils contrôlent, en premier lieu, les actes des Mutessarifs et des fonctionnaires du centre du vilayet, et, en second lieu, par l'intermédiaire de ceux-ci, les actes des fonctionnaires de toutes les branches d'Administration. Lorsqu'ils ont connaissance des fautes commises par eux, au préjudice de l'Administration, et que les cas constatés exigent l'éloignement des délinquants de leurs fonctions, ils mettent, conformément à la loi, en disponibilité, ceux d'entre eux dont la destitution est exigée; et ils proposent aux Ministres respectifs la mise en disponibilité de ceux dont la destitution en dépend. Ils ordonnent la mise en jugement, conformément à la loi, du fonctionnaire destituée, si le motif de sa destitution est un crime ou un délit.

Les Valis contrôlent également les actes des Chefs de l'Administration des Contributions, des Postes, des Télégraphes, des Vapeurs et des Quarantaines, des Capitaines de Port, et, en général, de tous les autres employés qui, se trouvant dans le vilayet, ne sont pas placés sous leur administration directe. Si des plaintes se produisent contre ceux-ci, ou s'ils entendent parler de leur mauvaise administration, les Valis ordonnent les enquêtes nécessaires, et en soumettent les résultats aux Ministères dont ces employés relèvent.

Ces Ministères devront donner une prompte suite aux rapports des Valis en pareil cas. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 35. Les Valis doivent, au moins une fois par an, faire une inspection dans le vilayet. Et, si par suite d'événements graves, ils jugent nécessaire de se rendre aussi, extraordinairement, sur quelque point du vilayet, ils y vont immédiatement et portent le fait à la connaissance de la Sublime Porte. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 36. Les Valis contrôlent la perception de tous les revenus et impôts du vilayet, ainsi que l'action et la conduite générale des perceptions. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 37. *Renvoyé au Titre XXI.* (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 38. Le Vali et le Defterdar sont, en commun, responsables dans les affaires de finances et de comptabilité. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 39. Les Valis faisant promptement mettre à exécution, par l'entremise des Directeurs de l'Instruction Publique, tous les règlements relatifs à l'instruction, s'efforceront de réaliser les moyens de la propager et de la généraliser dans les vilayets, d'améliorer l'état des écoles existantes, d'en établir de nouvelles, et de faire progresser les connaissances. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 40. Les Valis, par l'entremise des Directeurs respectifs, s'efforceront de réaliser les moyens de faire progresser le commerce, l'agriculture, et l'industrie, de construire et réparer les routes et chemins, d'établir des ponts et des quais sur les côtes maritimes, de percer des canaux, de nettoyer les fleuves, rivières, et lacs, de préserver la salubrité publique, d'utiliser les terres délaissées, de créer des Caisses d'utilité publique, de crédit et d'épargne, de maintenir en bon état celles qui existent, d'ouvrir des hôpitaux, de former des Sociétés, d'instituer des fabriques, d'augmenter les produits des mines et fôrets. (*Unanimité.*)

No. 576.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 27.)

(No. 54.)

My Lord, *Buyukdéré, July* 16, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the statistics furnished to me by the Ottoman Bank, and mentioned in my despatch No. 47 of the 9th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 576.

BANQUE IMPÉRIALE OTTOMANE.

DÉPENSES des Vilayets de la Turquie d'Europe.

EXERCICE 1291 (1875–76).

Dépenses Locales.

	Finances.	Intérieur.	Instruction Publique.	Commerce.	Travaux Publics.	Justice.	Total.
	Prs. p.	Prs. p.	Prs. p.	Prs. p.	Prs. p.	Prs. p.	Prs. p.
Andrinople	5,813,525 24	6,066,525 35	286,610 04	8,089 15	231,192 20	1,486,053 03	15,891,996 26
Bosnie	4,389,091 08	10,830,246 29	246,256 00	..	794,775 30	1,551,123 21	17,812,403 08
Danube	5,535,102 30	17,926,087 11	445,213 19	28,141 00	1,052,934 17	2,282,552 38	27,291,981 35
Monastir	3,751,527 37	7,507,630 28	456,129 18	..	622,297 24	1,430,417 17	13,765,303 04
Salonique	2,670,079 12	5,961,838 11	127,893 38	7,200 00	533,073 09	805,285 23	10,265,370 13
Yanina	3,122,622 30	8,634,864 17	148,175 18	1,360 00	259,555 15	952,055 26	13,113,038 55
	25,302,359 30	58,929,143 11	1,702,578 17	44,790 15	3,593,828 35	8,567,488 13	98,140,689 01

EXERCICE 1292 (1876–77).

Andrinople	4,649,699 21	6,845,971 06	238,951 28	17,010 00	221,333 00	1,458,568 22	13,491,468 57
Bosnie	1,639,019 23	7,106,385 26	179,693 10	..	530,803 06	1,350,260 00	10,805,661 25
Danube	5,110,125 11	15,402,538 11	470,550 30	2,640 00	1,006,633 32	2,272,683 26	24,272,371 36
Monastir	3,819,967 38	6,770,331 01	349,255 10	..	476,553 17	1,121,567 19	12,546,058 08
Salonique	2,265,352 17	5,657,765 06	134,196 33	9,420 00	242,107 22	854,255 28	9,143,007 26
Yanina	3,160,201 11	8,165,175 02	194,124 11	13,700 00	174,754 34	875,958 09	12,583,913 27
	20,644,366 01	49,937,166 15	1,626,085 08	49,970 00	2,651,665 31	7,933,228 24	82,843,081 39

EXERCICE 1293 (1877–78).

Andrinople (6 mois)	1,866,767 12	3,947,354 24	108,911 20	1,050 00	137,467 20	505,717 00	6,567,267 36
Bosnie	2,410,110 34	10,597,069 35	285,648 06	46,925 00	529,184 14	1,630,858 23	15,452,796 37
Danube	1,934,861 18	6,258,337 07	141,328 22	2,500 00	298,002 00	809,048 08	9,446,072 15
Kossova	2,265,572 02	8,226,107 08	255,754 21	..	315,520 30	1,112,897 20	12,175,852 01
Salonique	4,402,291 06	7,795,307 36	257,214 07	6,072 00	509,612 13	1,191,553 23	14,162,051 05
Yanina	2,538,240 30	9,098,633 21	194,396 18	1,020 00	116,838 20	928,234 15	12,877,360 24
	15,417,843 22	46,922,810 11	1,199,145 14	58,567 00	1,906,625 17	6,177,309 14	70,682,360 38

DÉPENSES des Vilayets de la Turquie d'Europe—(*suite*).

EXERCICE 1291 (1875–76).

Hassilès.

	Dette Publique.	Guère.	Marine.	Artillerie.	Liste Civile.	Finances.	Postes et Télégraphes.
	Prs. p.	Prs. p.	Prs. p.	Prs. p.	Prs. p.	Prs. p.	Prs. p.
Andrinople	57,685,659 03	36,017,962 30	5,498,413 09	4,909,056 24	4,757,519 18	4,734,237 15	759,729 04
Bosnie	2,748,630 19	14,788,241 00	..	..	..	198,402 35	493,987 39
Danube	49,876,536 11	45,041,398 12	8,193,156 34	2,159,873 25	11,765,922 00	4,045,860 20	553,009 01
Monastir	7,906,045 37	24,574,865 29	226,582 24	1,046,161 18	251,142 00	1,655,081 32	327,506 23
Salonique	27,683,900 35	9,358,393 20	7,789,751 16	3,291,237 20	739,725 25	65,594 10	72,614 08
Yanina	21,186,318 31	18,474,462 24	362,565 30	4,573,901 10	..	16,637 10	171,400 31
	167,089,283 16	148,250,323 36	22,070,469 35	15,974,530 17	17,534,309 03	13,714,714 02	2,378,247 26

EXERCICE 1292 (1876–77).

Andrinople	6,672,262 33	17,979,200 07	5,990,864 10	3,254,616 17	3,060,759 10	9,827,134 00	704,491 30
Bosnie	..	3,839,012 15	..	..	..	..	332,382 20
Danube	5,393,422 00	41,667,260 09	4,799,019 06	2,930,758 30	407,553 25	6,901,840 39	751,063 21
Monastir	..	16,790,304 00	11,865 10	702,636 20	..	65,470 12	268,410 11
Salonique	8,595,029 00	7,599,809 02	8,560,148 05	2,198,693 20	827,000 00	31,767 10	166,693 23
Yanina	2,296,105 00	14,171,271 20	2,049,170 10	2,261,296 20	..	1,250 00	221,478 06
	17,956,818 33	102,047,457 13	18,411,062 01	11,458,001 27	4,301,323 35	16,827,471 21	2,492,520 31

EXERCICE 1293 (1877–78).

Andrinople (6 mois)	..	19,063,282 10	531,058 16	1,992,996 15	85,200 00	10,311,071 31	192,391 04
Bosnie	..	8,098,877 31	..	..	..	122,364 20	167,907 30
Danube	..	6,596,817 32	1,718,913 28	50,610 00	5,743 00	11,019,680 31	531,765 31
Kossova	..	14,058,759 22	421,468 00	681,663 20	..	4,121,725 25	186,338 15
Salonique	..	26,819,600 00	1,883,655 30	588,566 00	602,473 20	44,126 00	249,427 34
Yanina	..	21,433,340 37	987,203 10	2,368,284 24	..	..	214,782 05
	..	96,070,678 15	5,542,289 04	5,682,090 19	693,416 20	25,619,268 27	2,142,406 30

Dépenses des Vilayets de la Turquie d'Europe—(*suite*).

	Exercice 1291 (1875-76).															
	Havalés.				Divers.						Totaux.					
	Divers.		Total.		Dépenses Obligatoires.		Banque Impériale Ottomane.		Total.							
	Prs.	p.	Prs.	p.	Prs.	p.	Prs.	p.	Prs.	p.	Prs.	p.				
Andrinople	5,476,621	07	119,339,196	30	6,235,816	09	..		6,235,816	09	141,967,011	25				
Bosnie	275,042	07	18,490,554	20	666,231	33	..		666,231	33	36,977,989	21				
Danube	6,308,991	29	127,960,750	12	19,631,703	32	..		19,631,703	32	174,884,435	39				
Monastir	6,271,092	37	45,258,779	00	5,678,148	29	..		5,678,148	29	64,702,280	35				
Salonique	2,205,692	37	51,807,000	11	8,281,583	16	..		8,281,583	16	70,353,954	00				
Yanina	3,034,631	34	42,819,818	10	2,549,071	24	96,000	00	2,645,071	24	58,578,523	29				
	23,172,072	31	406,184,901	03	43,042,555	23	96,000	00	43,138,555	23	547,464,145	27				
	Exercice 1292 (1876-77).															
Andrinople	7,045,750	04	54,601,116	31	12,439,265	12	..		12,439,265	12	80,581,873	06				
Bosnie	255,246	30	4,416,641	25	67,340	37	..		67,340	37	15,289,644	07				
Danube	10,979,822	06	73,830,740	16	74,847,810	36	..		74,847,810	36	172,950,923	08				
Monastir	7,676,050	35	25,600,352	08	12,965,791	13	..		12,965,791	13	51,112,801	29				
Salonique	4,490,790	34	21,469,926	14	19,091,805	11	..		19,091,805	11	52,701,739	11				
Yanina	5,662,545	27	26,686,412	03	11,168,610	22	200,068	18	11,369,279	00	50,689,604	30				
	36,110,536	16	209,605,191	17	180,580,644	11	200,068	18	130,781,312	29	423,329,586	05				
	Exercice 1293 (1877-78).															
Andrinople (6 mois)	481,314	02	32,657,813	38	20,604,054	14	..		20,604,054	14	53,828,036	08				
Bosnie	114,747	22	8,803,893	26	2,528,698	28	..		2,528,698	28	26,785,389	11				
Danube	340,055	00	20,264,014	02	54,858,212	28	..		54,852,212	28	84,569,199	05				
Kossova	3,133,560	33	22,966,595	35	27,714,594	02	..		27,714,594	02	62,793,951	38				
Salonique	13,659,957	10	43,798,016	04	36,034,171	09	..		36,034,171	09	93,994,268	13				
Yanina	1,330,071	08	26,384,182	05	11,473,078	22	528,968	00	12,002,046	22	51,213,589	11				
	19,060,805	35	154,760,955	30	153,212,809	23	528,968	00	153,741,777	23	379,185,034	11				

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Inclosure 2 in No. 576.

Recettes des Vilayets de la Turquie d'Europe.

	Exercice 1291 (1875-76).															
	Verghés.		Rachat Militaire.		Dîmes.		Moutons.		Porcs.		Contrats.		Taxes Judiciaires.			
	Prs.	p.	Prs.	p.	Prs.	p.	Prs.	p.	Prs.	p.	Prs.	p.	Prs.	p.		
Andrinople	26,584,467	10	10,751,324	13	76,488,022	01	21,003,994	33	380,583	15	14,661	34	782,535	13		
Bosnie	7,350,267	38	4,813,221	20	17,577,529	39	3,895,656	15	457,737	14	5,448	24	444,800	00		
Danube	25,700,630	14	21,882,097	15	91,343,136	06	32,127,091	20	1,083,027	21	29,069	39	1,114,077	16		
Monastir	9,592,720	24	5,017,900	24	34,827,110	28	10,628,858	13	303,051	17	1,692	30	684,229	11		
Salonique	15,088,266	39	4,307,700	34	38,175,360	17	14,227,023	16	175,762	00	30,279	15	542,579	08		
Yanina	8,389,770	28	5,974,077	26	24,288,040	32	13,136,151	10	82,188	32	81,710	27	397,552	21		
	93,606,123	28	52,216,922	12	282,699,802	06	95,218,780	27	2,491,350	19	162,883	09	3,965,773	23		
	Exercice 1292 (1876-77).															
Andrinople	22,482,282	17	11,648,064	36	28,044,573	25	18,226,658	09	244,989	23	11,463	34	547,231	35		
Bosnie	3,283,699	04	1,204,717	21	11,697,220	37	2,018,440	16	218,320	09	1,643	24	282,099	16		
Danube	23,725,403	00	22,125,035	32	57,683,463	00	27,666,408	23	1,082,313	06	21,263	20	754,421	14		
Monastir	11,034,665	31	6,419,800	18	28,502,092	28	7,721,515	14	316,385	14	..		145,829	14		
Salonique	13,700,535	03	2,921,797	25	22,282,093	39	12,787,779	10	214,891	20	29,406	30	436,105	07		
Yanina	8,460,853	19	6,598,376	38	18,613,290	37	12,296,383	22	39,850	00	14,855	10	253,250	39		
	82,687,238	39	50,917,799	10	166,822,735	06	80,717,180	14	2,113,749	32	103,632	38	2,726,941	07		
	Exercice 1293 (1877-78).															
Andrinople (6 mois)	11,307,077	20	6,613,104	09	11,929,783	13	32,291,547	17	36,574	00	3,998	04	215,867	18		
Bosnie	4,892,243	13	6,632,161	38	19,296,684	14	2,573,423	38	455,387	07	856	26	358,238	39		
Danube	5,781,705	08	2,775,629	08	30,815,215	11	16,390,510	20	63,429	33	9,241	28	200,776	32		
Kossova	9,147,784	27	6,892,781	26	21,176,627	19	14,204,521	32	204,589	05	1,403	20	283,437	28		
Salonique	21,156,075	04	11,518,409	29	27,130,525	06	30,307,154	03	244,214	10	47,190	15	586,857	13		
Yanina	8,761,539	01	6,904,718	06	7,272,624	25	21,198,550	35	166,775	00	29,141	30	207,970	01		
	61,046,424	33	41,334,804	86	117,628,460	08	116,965,714	25	1,170,969	15	91,835	03	1,853,146	06		

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Recettes des Vilayets de la Turquie d'Europe—(suite).

	Exercice 1291 (1875–76).													
	Propriétés Immobilières.		Forêts.		Mines.		Revenus Divers.		Total.	
	Droits Divers.									
	Frs.	p.	Frs.	p.	Frs.	p.	Frs.	p.	Frs.	p.
Andrinople	..	..	1,690,947	10	..	..	2,203,627	27	142,581,654	34
Bosnie	..	..	101,184	39	..	..	820,417	02	35,724,219	06
Danube	..	..	578,041	05	356,476	11	622,680	28	177,964,286	38
Monastir	4,080	00	43,603	30	6,032	30	650,826	05	65,642,904	32
Salonique	2,265,558	27	153,704	06	..	..	406,429	11	75,806,094	01
Yanina	368,505	10	144,365	07	6,400	00	170,840	04	59,121,730	11
	7,218,312	39	2,716,949	06	367,909	01	4,472,735	22	556,931,490	02
	Exercice 1292 (1876–77).									
Andrinople	..	..	1,005,560	13	..	..	1,345,354	30	85,475,733	33
Bosnie	..	..	33,880	28	..	..	554,860	39	19,882,412	13
Danube	7,080	00	436,203	12	13,470	14	44,316,309	23	180,139,953	27
Monastir	556,098	68	47,792	11	26,093	20	577,340	07	56,869,529	19
Salonique	672,151	16	14,859	10	..	..	860,385	18	55,370,332	33
Yanina	4,616,264	27	53,292	14	830	00	56,956	39	52,500,418	36
	5,852,144	36	1,631,818	08	41,393	34	47,711,107	36	450,238,380	31
	Exercice 1293 (1877–78).									
Andrinople	..	..	703,572	10	..	..	5,150,411	00	68,807,630	00
Bosnie	..	..	65,927	09	..	..	272,201	08	35,578,904	02
Danube	..	..	87,797	17	..	..	29,126,435	32	76,970,820	10
Kossova	37,225	07	73,291	03	8,063	12	12,591,821	02	65,817,947	10
Salonique	1,997,084	25	498,502	20	100,000	00	1,185,476	22	97,970,927	36
Yanina	4,091,712	31	41,194	16	..	..	2,107,072	09	52,526,502	23
	6,105,999	23	1,469,285	04	108,063	12	41,653,420	33	397,771,822	01
	Exercice 1294 (1878–79).									
Andrinople (6 mois)	..	..	645,691	29	..	..	1,335,354	30	85,475,733	33
Bosnie	..	..	1,031,779	10	..	..	554,860	39	19,882,412	13
Danube	..	..	724,076	21	..	..	44,316,309	23	180,139,953	27
Kossova	..	..	1,146,100	34	..	..	577,340	07	56,869,529	19
Salonique	..	..	3,024,468	00	..	..	860,385	18	55,370,332	33
Yanina	..	..	1,735,283	29	..	..	56,956	39	52,500,418	36
	..	..	8,317,703	03	..	..	47,711,107	36	450,238,380	31

Résumé.

	Exercice 1291 (1875–76).					
	Total des Recettes.		Total des Dépenses Locales.		Solde des Recettes.	
	Frs.	p.	Frs.	p.	Frs.	p.
Andrinople	142,581,653	34	15,891,996	26	126,689,658	08
Bosnie	35,724,219	06	17,812,403	08	17,911,815	38
Danube	177,964,286	38	27,291,981	35	150,672,305	03
Monastir	65,642,904	32	13,765,303	04	51,877,601	28
Salonique	75,806,094	01	10,265,370	13	65,631,323	28
Yanina	59,121,730	11	13,113,633	35	46,008,096	16
	556,931,490	02	98,140,689	01	458,790,801	01
	Exercice 1292 (1876–77).					
Andrinople	85,475,733	33	13,491,468	37	71,984,264	26
Bosnie	19,882,412	13	10,805,661	25	9,076,750	28
Danube	180,139,953	27	24,272,871	36	155,867,581	31
Monastir	56,869,529	19	12,546,658	08	44,322,871	11
Salonique	55,370,332	33	9,143,007	26	46,227,325	07
Yanina	52,500,418	36	12,580,913	27	39,916,505	09
	450,238,380	31	82,840,081	39	367,395,298	32
	Exercice 1293 (1877–78).					
Andrinople (6 mois)	68,807,630	00	6,567,267	36	62,240,362	64
Bosnie	35,578,904	02	15,452,796	37	20,126,107	65
Danube	76,970,820	10	9,446,972	15	67,523,847	35
Kossova	65,817,947	10	12,175,852	01	53,642,095	09
Salonique	97,970,927	36	14,162,051	05	83,817,876	31
Yanina	52,526,502	23	12,877,360	24	39,649,231	99
	397,771,822	01	70,682,300	38	327,089,521	03

No. 577.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 55.)

My Lord, *Buyukdéré, July* 17, 1880.

THE Commissioners of the Five Powers, at a private meeting held here on the 13th instant, considered the financial amendments prepared by Baron de Kosjek and myself, and herewith inclosed.

Your Lordship will observe that the figures in paragraph (*d*) are left blank. It was considered by Baron de Kosjek and myself that the question of fixing a lump sum was distinct from that of settling the amount of that sum, and that the calculation mentioned in my despatch No. 47 might have to be revised, in case the Ottoman Commissioner presented any statistics to the Commission.

A long discussion took place. The French Commissioner, M. Aubaret, strongly opposed the commutation of the "frais de l'Administration Locale" into a fixed sum, as being injurious to the Central Government. I replied to this in the terms of my despatch No, 47, that the proposal was made with an exactly opposite object, viz., to protect the Central Government from an indefinite increase of the local expenses, which might end in nothing, or next to nothing, being left to the Porte for Imperial purposes, a danger described by Mr. Sandwith as actually at hand in the Island of Crete; the province, on the other hand, would be protected against the policy of a Vali, who, by cutting down the "frais de l'Administration Locale," and thereby increasing the share of the surplus remaining to the Porte, might hope to gain favour at head-quarters.

I found, however, that the feeling of the majority of the Commissioners was adverse to this part of the amendment, though altogether approving the remainder. They considered that the danger to the province—the reality of which they did not deny—would best be met by giving the Assembly the right of increasing the sums placed by the Government on the estimates. As regarded the danger to the Central Government, they considered that—assuming it to exist—the Ottoman Commissioners were the proper parties to call attention to it, and that the responsibility might be left with them. They

did not, however, seem to think the danger a very real one. The French Commissioner, especially, expressed this view very strongly, asseverating that the Government would lose far more by fixing the sum, than it would gain; Baron de Kosjek and myself consequently consented to amend our amendment, and to withdraw the commutation.

I may add that a consideration which principally weighed with us in consenting to this course was the belief, now almost grown into a certainty, that the Ottoman Commissioners will not present any statistics or information to us. We consequently feared that although the statistics alluded to in my despatch No. 47 are probably as good, if not better than anything which Assim Pasha and Abro Effendi could prepare for our use, it would nevertheless be very difficult to make a financial project for incorporation into a law upon the basis of information, much of which was private and unofficial.

I still, however, retain the opinion expressed in my despatch No. 47, that the principle of limiting the provincial demand is one which, while in no manner disadvantageous to the provinces, protects the Porte from a danger, of the reality of which I am persuaded, and therefore does not in any manner injuriously affect the possible future work of a Financial Commission, more especially as the amount of the fixed sum is, according to my proposals, to be revised every five years.

The amendment, as amended, was presented by Baron de Kosjek and myself to the Commission on the 14th instant. At the request of the Ottoman Commissioners the discussion was put off till the next meeting, which will not take place till Tuesday the 20th, the reception of the Italian Ambassador necessitating the presence of my colleague, M. Vernoni, at the Palace on Saturday next (the 17th), the day to which the Commission had adjourned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 577.

(A.)

Amendements présentés par les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie et de la Grande Bretagne.

Nouveaux Articles à placer après l'Article 82.

(*a.*) Ne seront pas portés sur le budget du vilayet les frais de l'armée, de l'artillerie, de la marine, de la Liste Civile, de la Dette Publique, et de la représentation étrangère.

Sont également exclus du budget du vilayet les Douanes, les impôts, et monopoles des tabacs, sels, spiritueux, timbres, soies et poissons, et les postes et télégraphes.

(*b.*) Tous les autres revenus du vilayet seront portés sur le budget du vilayet.

(*c.*) Après prélèvement sur ces revenus des frais de toutes les branches de l'Administration du vilayet, les 15 pour cent du restant seront abandonnés au vilayet pour les dépenses spéciales, qui seront fixées par le Conseil Général dans un cahier spécial. Le reste sera versé au Trésor Impérial.

(*d.*) . . . . . sont accordés annuellement au Vilayet d'Andrinople, et . . . . . au Vilayet de Salonique, comme frais de l'Administration du vilayet.

(*e.*) Tous les revenus du vilayet doivent être versés dans la Caisse du vilayet, tenue à la Banque Impériale Ottomane, au chef-lieu du vilayet.

(*f.*) La Banque tiendra un compte spécial, intitulé Compte (A), pour les frais de l'Administration du vilayet.

(*g.*) Les Valis, dans la limite des sommes ci-dessus nommées, fourniront des assignations sur la Banque au débit du compte spécial ci-dessus nommé, et ces assignations seront une première charge pour la Caisse du vilayet, sur laquelle les prélèvements mentionnées à l'Article (*c*) seront opérés par la Banque au fur et à mesure des besoins, mais toujours dans la limite du crédit annuel stipulé.

(*h.*) En outre de ce compte pour les frais de l'Administration Locale, la Banque ouvrira sur ses livres deux comptes distincts (B) et (C), savoir:—

(B.) Un compte, dit "du vilayet" au crédit duquel seront portés les 15 pour cent du solde restant après paiement des frais de l'Administration; lesquels 15 pour cent sont réservés aux dépenses spéciales du vilayet. Le Vali fournira des assignations sur la Banque, au débit de ce compte qui sera une seconde charge pour la Caisse du vilayet, mais toujours dans la limite des 15 pour cent ci-dessus nommés.

(C.) Un compte du Trésor Impérial Ottoman au crédit duquel seront portés

mensuellement les 85 pour cent du solde précité, lesquels 85 pour cent doivent être versés au Trésor Impérial.

Toute somme portée sur ce compte sera à la disposition exclusive du Gouvernement Impérial, et sera versée au Trésor Impérial à Constantinople d'après les instructions du Ministre des Finances.

Cependant, les revenus des Vacoufs n'étant pas compris dans les revenus généraux des vilayets seront administrés conformément aux dispositions indiquées dans le titre, qui traite des attributions des Conseils des diverses communautés.

1. Les sommes fixées à l'Article (*d*) seront soumises à une révision tous les cinq ans par accord entre la Sublime Porte et le Gouvernement de la province. Dans l'absence d'un accord, les sommes ci-dessus nommées seront censées avoir été adoptées.

2. Chaque assignation sur les Comptes (A) et (B) sera signé par le Vali et par le Defterdar, ou un employé provincial de contrôle supérieur, et contresignée par le Comptable.

3. Le Vali nommera un Vérificateur Officiel des comptes du vilayet, qui, les ayant examinés, présentera un Rapport au Vali.

4. Le Vali soumettra le Rapport du Vérificateur Officiel au Conseil Général le premier jour de sa séance.

5. Le Conseil Général choisira entre ses membres élus un Comité qui examinera si les sommes inscrites au budget ont été employées pour les objets auxquelles elles ont été accordées.

6. Le budget est soumis à une discussion préalable au sein de l'Assemblée. L'Assemblée arrêtera l'emploi que le Gouvernement est autorisé à faire des sommes accordées.

Tout emploi de fonds par l'Administration du vilayet ou par le Gouvernement, ayant que l'affectation ait été ainsi arrêtée est constituée un abus attentatoire aux droits de l'Assemblée.

Inclosure 2 in No. 577.

(B.)

Amendements présentés par les Commissaires de la Grande Bretagne et de l'Autriche-Hongrie.

Nouveaux Articles à placer après l'Article 82.

(*a.*) Ne seront pas portés sur le budget du vilayet les frais de l'armée, de l'artillerie, de la marine, de la liste civile, de la représentation étrangère et de la dette publique flottante et consolidée, et tout autre frais généraux du Gouvernement Central.

Sont également exclus du budget du vilayet les revenus des Douanes, des impôts, et monopoles des tabacs, sels, spiritueux, timbres, soies, et poissons, et des postes et télégraphes.

(*b.*) Tous les autres revenus du vilayet seront portés sur le budget du vilayet.

(*c.*) Après prélèvement sur ces revenus des frais de toutes les branches de l'Administration du vilayet, les 15 pour cent du restant seront abandonnés au vilayet pour les dépenses spéciales, qui seront fixées par le Conseil Général dans un cahier spécial. Le reste sera versé au Trésor Impérial.

(*d.*) Tous les revenus du vilayet doivent être versés dans la Caisse du vilayet, tenue à la Banque Impériale Ottomane, au chef-lieu du vilayet.

(*e.*) La Banque tiendra un compte spécial, intitulé Compte (A), pour les frais de l'Administration du vilayet.

(*f.*) Les Valis, dans la limite des sommes accordées dans le budget pour les frais de l'Administration Locale, fourniront des assignations sur la Banque au débit du compte spécial ci-dessus nommé, et ces assignations seront une première charge pour la Caisse du vilayet, sur laquelle les prélèvements mentionnés à l'Article (*c*) seront opérés par la Banque au fur et à mesure des besoins, mais toujours dans la limite du crédit annuel stipulé.

(*g.*) En outre de compte pour les frais de l'Administration Locale, la banque ouvrira sur ses livres deux comptes distincts (B) et (C), savoir:—

(B.) Un compte dit "du Vilayet" au crédit duquel seront portés les 15 pour cent du solde restant après paiement des frais de l'Administration, lesquels 15 pour cent sont réservés aux dépenses spéciales du vilayet. Le Vali fournira des assignations sur la Banque, au débit de ce compte, qui sera une seconde charge pour la Caisse du vilayet, mais toujours dans la limite des 15 pour cent ci-dessus nommés.

(*c.*) Un compte du Trésor Impérial Ottoman, au crédit duquel seront portés les 85 pour cent du solde précité, lesquels 85 pour cent doivent être versés au Trésor Impérial.

(*h.*) Toute somme portée sur ce compte sera à la disposition exclusive du Gouvernement Impérial, pour subvenir aux charges et frais généraux de l'Empire, et sera versée au Trésor Impérial à Constantinople d'après les instructions du Ministre des Finances.

(*i.*) Cependant, les revenus des Vacoufs n'étant pas compris dans les revenus généraux des vilayets, seront administrés conformément aux dispositions indiquées dans le Titre, qui traite des attributions des Conseils des diverses communautés.

(*k.*) Chaque assignation sur les comptes (A) et (B) sera signée par le Vali et par le Defterdar ou un employé provincial de contrôle supérieur, et contresignée par le Comptable.

(*l.*) L'Inspecteur des Finances vérifiera les comptes du vilayet, et les ayant examinés, présentera un Rapport au Vali.

(*m.*) Le Vali soumettra le Rapport de l'Inspecteur des Finances au Conseil Général le premier jour de sa séance.

(*n.*) Le Conseil Général choisira entre ses membres élus un Comité qui examinera si les sommes inscrites au budget ont été accordées.

(*o.*) Les frais de la gendarmerie et de la police sont inclus dans les frais de l'Administration Locale indiqués à la lettre (*c.*)

(*p.*) Le Conseil-Général aura le droit d'augmenter les sommes inscrites au budget par le Vali, et d'ouvrir de nouveaux chapitres de dépenses pour les frais de l'Administration Locale. Ces nouvelles dépenses ne pourront être, toutefois, exécutées qu'avec la sanction de la Sublime Porte.

Rédaction proposée par Lord E. Fitzmaurice pour l'Article 82 du Projet de Loi.

Le Vali présentera au Conseil Général, au commencement de chaque session annuelle, le projet de budget de l'année suivante. En même temps que ce projet de budget, le compte de l'année précédente sera présenté au Conseil Général par le Vali.

Le budget est soumis à une discussion préalable au sein du Conseil Général. Le Conseil Général arrêtera l'emploi que le Gouvernement est autorisé à faire des sommes accordées.

Tout emploi de fonds par l'Administration du vilayet ou par le Gouvernement, avant que l'affectation ait été ainsi arrêtée, constitue un abus attentatoire aux droits du Conseil Général.

Le Conseil Général examine le côté pécuniaire du budget et du compte annuel. Le Vali assistera aux délibérations du Conseil, quand il le voudra; et, lorsqu'il ne s'y trouve pas en personne, il pourra déléguer aux délibérations le fonctionnaire du vilayet qu'il voudra.

No. 578.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 56.)
My Lord,

Buyukdéré, July 17, 1880.

I HAVE received petitions as marked in the inclosure to this despatch, and have forwarded them to the President of the Commission, in accordance with the terms of the resolution adopted at the meeting of the 6th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 578.

Petitions addressed to Lord E. Fitzmaurice, and forwarded by his Lordship to Assim Pasha.

1. FROM Vodena, Kouhonch, Stroumnitza, and Vélés, protesting against the conduct of the Greek Bishops in Macedonia.

2. From Vélés, Ochrida, Uskub, Chtip, Monastir, Vodena, Debra, Stroumnitza, Poliana, Salonica, Florina, Drama, Nevrokop, in favour of the Bulgarian Exarchate.

3. From Macedonians at Constantinople against the Greek Bishops.

No. 579.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 57.)
My Lord,

Buyukdéré, July 17, 1880.

I YESTERDAY had the advantage of an interview with M. Christophorides, an Albanian gentleman, some details of which I think it as well to send to your Lordship.

M. Christophorides is a native of Elbassan. He was the teacher of M. Hahn, the author of the well-known book, "Albanesische Studien," and for the last fifteen years has been in the employment of the branch of the Bible Society established here under the direction of Dr. Thomson. He is now occupied in translating portions of the Scriptures into his native language. The Albanian not being a written language M. Christophorides has almost had to create the machinery necessary to his work, and while thus employed he has, I believe, gradually obtained a very superior knowledge of Albania and everything connected with it; a knowledge doubly valuable because untinctured by the political or religious prejudices of the country. M. Christophorides is a Protestant.

He said he thought that the population of Albania was about 2,000,000. The country naturally fell into three divisions—

1. Upper Albania, which included—

(*a.*) Scutari and the great mountain mass lying south of the Montenegrin frontier and north of the River Mati. Here the majority are Roman Catholics, probably 400,000 out of a population of 500,000.

This is the same district as that described in the memorandum of M. Lippich, sent to Baron Haymerle, and shown to me by his Excellency Mr. Goschen, and also by my Austro-Hungarian colleague, Baron de Kosjek, the principal towns of which—besides Scutari—are Tusi, Tuka, Oroschi, and Allessio.

(*b.*) Ipek, Drakovo, Pristina, and the district up to the Servian frontier, which is almost exclusively Mahommedan, except between Mitrovitza and Pristina, where a considerable number of Serbs still remain in the Kossovopolye. The proportions of the population, M. Christophorides said, were about 400,000 Mahommedans to 80,000 Christians. The principal towns are Ipek, Drakovo, and Pristina.

2. Middle Albania, including Prisrend, Dibra superior, Dibra inferior, Matia, Kroja, Ishmi, Priza, Piram, Dronkia, Durazzo, Kavaya, Pekinid, and Elbassan.

This district, together with the Roman Catholic district mentioned above, is that generally known as Gegaria, and the River Schkumbini or Skumbi is the southern boundary. The population, which is almost exclusively Mahommedan, may be taken at 500,000.

3. Lower Albania, between the River Skumbi and the new Greek frontier: the population in this district, which is tolerably equally divided between the Greek Orthodox Communion and Mahommedanism, may be taken at 600,000.

In reply to a question M. Christophorides said Janina was not Albanian, and that there would be no great difficulty in dealing with those Albanians who came within the new Greek frontier. They were not very numerous, perhaps 15,000 in all, chiefly in the districts of Margheriti, Paramythia, and Suli. But it was no use trying to make them out, as some people did, to be Greeks, and some guarantee ought to be taken for their proper treatment by the Greeks. I may mention, while on this subject, that Dr. Thomson told me the other day that the opposition of the Albanians to the Greeks, and the disappearance of that good feeling between the two peoples, which had existed at the time of the War of Independence, was owing, in no small degree, to the narrow and short-sighted policy of the Greeks, who, with regard to the Albanians, were committing over again the same blunders which had formerly alienated the Bulgarians. In the Greek Kingdom, many parts of which, more especially Eubœa and the Morea, contained a large Albanian population, a systematic attempt was being made in the schools to stamp out the Albanian language, and to Hellenize the whole population. This was resented, and the result had been that while a certain portion of the Albanian population was Hellenized, another and still larger portion remained entirely uneducated, even in the neighbourhood of Athens.

I asked M. Christophorides what the line of demarcation between the Albanian and Bulgarian population eastward was. He said, speaking generally, the mountains forming the watershed between the Adriatic and the Ægean. Ochrida and Monastir were certainly not Albanian, but Gortsch was. M. Christophorides spoke on the subject with great fairness and moderation.

The fanatical Bulgarians, Albanians, and Greeks all alike claim Monastir, Ochrida, and Gortsch as belonging to them, and produce statistics to prove their case, which they know to be false, in the hope of escaping detection. The Greeks are the chief offenders in this matter, and I have come to the conclusion that it is almost impossible to believe any statement they produce in connection with Macedonia.

In regard to the Kossovopolye, M. Christophorides acknowledged that there was a considerable body of Serbs in the direction of Mitrovitza and Pristina, but that the Metochia was purely Albanian and Mahommedan, and that this was the predominant characteristic of the whole of the former Vilayet of Kossovo, and still more so since the flight into Turkey of nearly the whole Albanian Mahommedan population of the lands ceded to Servia near Vranya, under the Treaty of Berlin. It is interesting to observe that the district in which this little noticed but terrible episode has taken place is in the very part of the country where the population, according to the impression of the authoress of an interesting and justly-esteemed work, published a few years ago, was only waiting for the disappearance of the Turkish Government, to live together in peace and goodwill with its neighbours, on the basis of a low estimate of taxes it was to pay, and a still lower one of the religion it was to profess. (See "The Sclavonic Provinces of Turkey," by Muir Mackenzie and A. P. Zuby, vol. i, pp. 226, 227.)

The Albanian League, according to M. Christophorides, is chiefly the work of the Derebeys, the remains of the old feudal nobility, who are instigated and supported from Constantinople.

But outside the Albanian League, and acting with it, but only so far as their objects are for the time identical, there is a national movement of a genuine and serious kind, which if in its infancy, is probably spreading rapidly. The Derebeys are only playing with sedition, desiring to keep up the authority of the Sultan and the Mahommedan supremacy, and at the same time restore their own power to the point where it stood before the reforms of Sultan Mahmoud. But the true national movement, which will be too strong for the Derebeys and the Porte, aims far beyond this. It would, according to M. Christophorides, leave the Sultan a suzerainty, and nothing more—such as, for example, he possesses in Eastern Roumelia—and it would promote a large Albania, including all the three districts mentioned above, under a Prince, who would have to be introduced from outside, owing to the difficulty of finding anybody in the country itself on whom all parties would unite their suffrages. Middle and Lower Albania would have to be made Sub-Governorships, the former with a Mahommedan, the latter with a Greek Orthodox head. Upper Albania would have to be divided into two parts—the mountains, under a Roman Catholic Christian Sub-Governor; the Drakovo-Ipek district, under a Mahommedan. M. Christophorides thought that the Mirditi Prince would be generally acceptable in the first of the two districts as Sub-Governor.

In regard to language, M. Christophorides thought that the difference between the Gheg and Tosk dialects was exaggerated. They differed, but no more than English and broad Scotch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 580.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 58.)
My Lord, *Bujukdéré, July* 18, 1880.

A VARIETY of petitions have lately been addressed to the Commission, or to individual members of it, asking that the Xth Chapter of the East Roumelian Organic Statute should be incorporated in some shape or another in the new "Loi." The most important result of its incorporation would be to enable the Bulgarian Exarch to ordain Bishops in Macedonia, and so to lead to the establishment of Bulgarian congregations with regularly ordained priests in that province. As your Lordship already possesses full information of the history of the so-called Bulgarian schism, I need not enter into a general discussion of the matter. I may, however, observe that as the Exarch resides at Constantinople, and receives his investiture from the Sultan, he cannot be regarded as the bearer of a foreign ecclesiastical title. The demand of the petitioners seems not only just and reasonable in itself, but is supported by the terms of the second paragraph of the 10th Article of the Firman constituting the Exarchate, a copy of which I inclose, and

also by the LXIInd Article of the Treaty of Berlin. I therefore propose to support the prayer of the petitioners when it comes before the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 580.

Firman Constitutif de l'Exarchat Bulgare.

MA volonté Impériale a toujours été que tous les peuples fidèles et sujets habitant mon Empire jouissent constamment de l'ordre et de la sécurité qui leur est nécessaire dans l'exercice de leur culte ainsi que dans tous leurs rapports sociaux; qu'ils vivent entre eux en paix et en amitié comme l'exigent le patriotisme et l'humanité, afin de pouvoir ainsi aider à nous soutenir autant qu'ils peuvent, dans les efforts que nous ne cessions de faire pour la prospérité de l'Empire et le progrès de la civilisation.

Et comme, contrairement à notre volonté Impériale, il s'est manifesté depuis quelque temps, entre les Bulgares Orthodoxes et le Patriarcat Grec, des discordes et des dissensions sur la question de savoir dans quelle mesure les Métropolitains, les Evêques, les prêtres, et les églises Bulgares dépendent du Patriarcat, discordes et dissensions qui nous ont affligé, il a été procédé à des recherches et à des discussions approfondies à cet égard. Comme résultat de ce travail, voici les Articles qui ont été adoptés et approuvés pour la solution définitive de cette affaire:

Article 1er. Il sera établi à part, un cercle ecclésiastique sous la dénomination officielle d'Exarchat Bulgare, lequel comprendra avec les métropoles et évêchés ci-dessous dénommés quelques autres endroits. La gestion des affaires ecclésiastiques et religieuses de ce cercle sera confiée en entier à cet Exarchat.

Art. 2. Le premier en rang d'entre les Métropolitains de ce cercle portera le titre d'Exarque. C'est à lui qu'appartiendra la présidence canonique du Synode Bulgare.

Art. 3. L'administration intérieure ecclésiastique de cet Exarchat sera fixée par un règlement lequel devra être d'accord avec les canons fondamentaux et les constitutions religieuses de l'Eglise Orthodoxe, et qui sera soumis à l'approbation et à la sanction de mon Gouvernement Impérial.

Le règlement sera fait de manière que le Patriarche ne puisse, ni directement ni indirectement, s'immiscer dans les affaires spirituelles, et particulièrement dans les élections des Evêques et de l'Exarque. Dès que l'Exarque sera élu, le Synode Bulgare en avertira le Patriarche, qui devra aussitôt accorder l'acte confirmatif, selon la religion.

Art. 4. L'Exarque nommé par un haut Firman de notre part sera obligé, conformément aux règles de l'Eglise, de mentionner dans les prières le nom du Patriarche de Constantinople. Mais avant que l'élection de l'Exarque soit fait, il sera présenté à mon Gouvernement la personne jugée digne d'être élevée à ce poste.

Art. 5. L'Exarque, pour les affaires concernant les pays de sa juridiction, aura le droit d'être directement en rapport avec les autorités locales, et au besoin, avec notre Sublime Porte. Particulièrement, les bérats qui seront accordés aux personnes ecclésiastiques de sa juridiction ne pourront être rendus que sur son avis.

Art. 6. Pour les affaires concernant la foi Orthodoxe qui ont besoin d'une commune délibération; le Synode Bulgare s'adressera au Patriarche Œcuménique et à son Synode: ceux-ci doivent lui accorder l'assistance demandée, et répondre sans retard aux demandes qui leur seront soumises.

Art. 7. Le Synode Bulgare prendra le saint chrême du Patriarche de Constantinople.

Art. 8. Les Evêques, Archevêques, et Métropolitains soumis au Patriarche Œcuménique pourront traverser sans aucun empêchement, l'Exarchat Bulgare, comme les Evêques, Archevêques, et Métropolitains Bulgares pourront le faire dans les éparchies Grecques, et il leur est permis de séjourner dans les chefs-lieux des vilayets et autres centres administratifs, mais il ne peuvent pas convoquer des Synodes en dehors de leur circonscription spirituelle, ni s'immiscer dans les affaires des Chrétiens non soumis à eux, ni officier sans la permission de l'Evêque du pays où ils se trouvent.

Art. 9. De même que le métoche de Jérusalem qui se trouve au Phanar dépend du Patriarche de Jérusalem, de même le métoche et l'Eglise Bulgare qui se trouvent dans le même quartier seront soumis à l'Exarque Bulgare. Toutes les fois que l'Exarque aura besoin de venir à Constantinople, il lui sera permis de demeurer dans son métoche; quant à ce qui regarde les offices divins qu'il pourrait faire pendant son séjour dans la capitale, il sera soumis aux mêmes règles ecclésiastiques auxquelles se conforment, en pareil cas, les Patriarches d'Alexandrie, d'Andrinople, et de Jérusalem.

Art. 10. L'Exarchat Bulgare comprendra les éparchies de Roustchouq, Silistria, Choumla, Tirnova, Sophia, Vratza, Toultcha, Vidin, Nich, Charkeuï, Kustendil, Samakov, Velissa (Keuprulu), Philippopoli, le Mutessariflik d'Islimné et le caza de Sosopoli, excepté environ une vingtaine de villages sur le bord de la Mer Noire entre Varna et Kustendjé, qui sont peuplés d'habitants non Bulgares; excepté aussi les villes de Varna, Anchialo, et Mésembrie, les villages sur le bord de la Mer Noire du Caza de Sosopoli, les villes de Philippopoli et de Stanimaka avec les villages de Kouklin, Vodin, Arnaout-Keuï, Panaguia, Novo-Celo, Leskovo, Ahlian, Batchovo, Béliastitza, et les couvents de Batchcova, des Saints Anarguiri, de Sainte Paraskéva et de Saint-Georges. La Sainte Panaguia (Sainte Marie), dans l'intérieur de Philippopoli, entrera dans l'Exarchat, mais ceux des habitants de cette paroisse qui ne voudront pas se soumettre à l'Exarchat, seront libres. Les détails sur ce point seront réglés conformément aux constitutions ecclésiastiques et religieuses entre le Patriarcat et l'Exarchat.

Hors les lieux ci-dessus énumérés et nommément cités, si les habitants d'autres endroits, professant le rite Orthodoxe, veulent unanimement, ou au moins les deux tiers de la population, se soumettre à l'Exarchat Bulgare, et que, après examen, il soit démontré que cela est vrai, leur demande doit être admise. Et comme une telle demande doit être faite par tous les habitants ou au moins par les deux tiers d'entre eux, ceux qui tenteraient de semer la discorde parmi les habitants seront responsables devant la loi.

Art. 11. Les couvents qui se trouvent dans l'Exarchat, et qui, suivant les institutions ecclésiastiques, sont soumis au Patriarcat, seront administrés comme auparavant.

Les Articles ci-dessus nous ayant paru de nature à satisfaire les vœux légitimes des deux parties, et à faire cesser les fâcheux désordres qui existent, ont été approuvés par mon Gouvernement et seront regardés dorénavant comme une règle de conduite qui ne sera pas enfreinte. A cet effet, il a été rendu mon présent Firman Impérial.

Le 8 Zilhidjé, 1286.

No. 581.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 27.)

(No. 59.) *Buyukdéré, July* 18, 1880.

My Lord,

DURING the discussion of Article 19 among the Commissioners, in accordance with my instructions received from your Lordship, I have informed Mr. Goschen from time to time of what has passed. In regard to the two subjects specially mentioned in my despatch No. 47, viz.—first, the expediency of defining the meaning of the term "frais de l'Administration Locale;" and, secondly, the advisability of commuting the aforesaid "frais" into a lump sum, subject to revision every five years—his Excellency considered that no good would be done unless there was some definition as to what were Imperial charges, but that it would not be wise, except after a more careful inquiry than in the present condition of affairs had as yet been possible, to fix the sums to be left to the province.

Should the principle of commutation be eventually approved of, it will no doubt be far more easily applied after the experience of the next few years than now.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 582.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 27.)

(No. 149.) *Therapia, July* 16, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram to your Lordship No. 119 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a note I addressed to his Excellency Abédine Pasha, in regard to the reported Albanian attack upon the Montenegrin outposts in the plain of Podgoritza.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 582.

Mr. Goschen to Abédine Pasha.

M. le Ministre, *Therapia, July* 14, 1880.

I SHALL be obliged if your Excellency will inform me whether the report contained in a telegram from our Consul at Scutari, of which I annex an extract, is accurate.

At the same time I beg to draw the attention of your Excellency to the very serious character of a collision with the Montenegrins, initiated, as it appears, by subjects of the Sultan. I have not failed to call the attention of your Excellency on many occasions to the dangers of the excitement produced on the Albanians by a movement said to have been countenanced in the highest quarters at Constantinople, and which now appear to be beyond the control of the Government. The conflict which took place on the 12th instant shows the absolute necessity for an immediate settlement of the frontier question with Montenegro, on which I may observe I am still without a reply to my letter of the 26th ultimo. I have warned your Excellency against the consequences of delay, and I now once again call your attention to the probable advantages of the Dulcigno Coast Cession, which would not affect the Albanian district where the feeling of hostility to Montenegro prevails.

It would not be unreasonable to believe that the appointment at a moment like the present of a Minister of War who appears to have been a functionary of the Albanian League has brought the crisis to a head.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) G. J. GOSCHEN.

No. 583.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 27.)

(No. 161.) *Therapia, July* 19, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 117 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith the translation of a further telegram addressed to the Porte by Midhat Pasha, with reference to the recent disturbances at Caiffa.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 583.

Midhat Pasha to Abédine Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Le* $\frac{25 \text{ Juin}}{7 \text{ Juillet}}$, 1880.

ONZE Cavas des Consulats sont principalement coupables dans l'affaire de Caiffa pour s'être servi d'armes et avoir infligé des blessures; quelques-uns ont été confiés aux prisons de l'Etat. Quelques Consuls hésitent à le faire. Si les Ambassades voudraient les en autoriser, ils auraient facilité l'affaire.

Baha Bey, Mektoubji du Vilayet, et le Consul de France à Beyrouth, qui s'étaient portés à bord d'un bâtiment de guerre Français pour se livrer à une enquête, sont de retour. De leurs documents et investigations il résulte que trente-deux individus armés en tout ont été imprisonnés, dont les onze sont des Cavas des Consulats. Ils constituent les principaux coupables pour s'être servi d'armes ou pour en avoir distribuées aux autres pendant l'affaire.

Les autres ne sont que des complices et forment la seconde et troisième catégorie de coupables. Tous ont été envoyés à St. Jean d'Acre, où leurs procès doivent s'instruire.

Cette affaire a perdu toute son importance. L'ordre et la tranquillité publiques sont parfaites. Les punitions à infliger aux complices seront connues ultérieurement.

No. 584.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July 27.*)

(No. 162.)

Therapia, July 20, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a note of a somewhat singular character, addressed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Representatives of the Signatory Powers. Dealing with alleged outrages on the Mussulman population in the eastern zone of the frontier between Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, it winds up by suggesting, as the best solution of the existing state of things, a disarmament of the population in Bulgaria.

The subject of this note was very briefly touched on at a meeting of the Representatives of the Signatory Powers which was held on another subject, but as the note had only been just received, and scarcely read, by some of those present, no serious discussion could take place.

The general feeling was that the Porte had wished to make a kind of counter-demonstration to demands made upon itself, and that the note could not be taken seriously.

I shall have an opportunity this afternoon of hearing the views of my colleagues more at length, but to my own mind it is clear that, whatever may be the intention of the note, it must be seriously answered.

Your Lordship will observe that its main purport deals with Bulgaria, and not with Eastern Roumelia. One demand is that our Consuls at Sophia, not Philippopoli, should visit the region in question; and the disarmament of the Bulgarians, not of the Eastern Roumelians, is suggested. The idea has been started that the Porte wishes to lay the foundation for an occupation of the Balkans, but it is scarcely conceivable that the Porte should contemplate such a step at the present moment in view of the concerted action of the Powers. Another view was that the note was a hostile and aggressive act on the part of the Sublime Porte, directed against the Powers, and that it should be considered as a part of a policy of defiance now being pursued.

Your Lordship will observe that no dates are given of any of the occurrences, either in the note or in the appendix. Nothing can be done till these dates are supplied. I shall at once send copies of the note and appendix to Mr. Stephen, to Mr. Lascelles, and to Colonel Wilson, and when I have learnt the views taken by my colleagues after they have had time to consider the matter, I will address your Lordship again.

It will be important to examine how much further ground than that covered by the Afidos events is included in the list of villages mentioned in the appendix to Abédine Pasha's note. I am having this point examined.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 584.

Abédine Pasha to Mr. Goschen.

Sublime Porte, le 15 Juillet, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

NOUS tenons de source officielle les renseignements suivants sur les événements tragiques qui ont eu lieu dans la zone orientale de la ligne de démarcation entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale.

Vingt-trois villages Musulmans situés tant dans la Principauté que dans la Roumélie Orientale ont été attaqués, saccagés, et pillés par les Bulgares qui en ont incendié et détruit plusieurs de fond en comble. Les habitants ont été massacrés ou soumis aux traitements les plus infâmes; sur quatre-vingt prisonniers Musulmans on en a perdu quatre par ordre d'un prêtre Bulgare; quant au reste, la moitié a été massacrée en route et l'autre moitié conduite à Varna.

Que ces actes criminels aient été prémédités de longue date nos informations ne laissent subsister aucun doute à ce sujet.

En effet, les paysans Bulgares avaient été avisés d'avance des événements sanglants auxquels la milice de la Principauté, les Gymnastes, et les gendarmes Roumélioles devaient prendre une part si active.

Contrairement aux suggestions des autorités locales tendantes à faire accroire à une révolte Musulmane, il y a lieu de faire remarquer que la première attaque contre Bellova a été faite par des paysans Bulgares, encouragés par l'attitude de la force armée qui se

tenait pour ainsi dire cachée, et que les Musulmans ayant voulu se défendre, les scènes de carnage dont ils ont été victimes commencèrent.

Les sinistres projets qu'on avait préparés contre ces malheureux ont reçu ainsi leur exécution plus tôt peut-être que ne l'espérait le Préfet d'Afidos lui-même quand il prêchait, quelques jours avant ces événements, l'extermination des Musulmans par les Bulgares.

Agissant d'après un plan arrêté les assassins se sont livrés à des actes inouïs sur une étendue de territoire de huit heures en longueur et trois en largeur.

Au surplus, je vous transmets, ci-joint, une notice contenant le récit de quelques-unes des atrocités dont il s'agit et des griefs formulés par les Musulmans contre les Bulgares.

Un des moyens les plus propres à remédier à cette situation serait, à l'avis du Gouvernement Impérial, le désarmement général de la population de la Principauté. Puisque tous les efforts tentés jusqu'à présent par la Sublime Porte pour améliorer le sort des Musulmans de la Bulgarie ont été steriles, nous croyons devoir nous en remettre aux Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin du soin de charger leurs Consuls à Sophia de se rendre sur les lieux pour écouter le reste des victimes et concerter ainsi, en connaissance de cause, les mesures à prendre en vue d'assurer conformément à l'esprit et à la lettre du même Traité une égalité parfaite de traitement entre les Musulmans et les Chrétiens et de mettre enfin un terme à l'état de choses déplorable ci-dessus signalé.

Pleine de confiance dans les sentiments d'humanité des Cabinets, la Sublime Porte n'hésite pas à y faire un nouvel appel pressant et prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien faire auprès de Gouvernement des démarches nécessaires pour amener le résultat désiré.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) ABÉDINE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 584.

Memorandum.

DERNIÈREMENT un certain nombre de miliciens Bulgares, après s'être réunis aux habitants de Tcheuki-Kébir, ont attaqué les villages de Bekdji et de Sari-Cavanli. Ils ont pris des habitants Musulmans de ces localités une somme de 28,000 piastres et ont emmené quatre-vingt d'entre eux à Lopochta, où ils en ont pendu quatre.

Le village de Bellova a été aussi l'objet d'une attaque semblable de la part de brigands et de miliciens Bulgares. Ceux-ci ont également cerné plusieurs villages avoisinants qu'ils ont pillés et brûlés, en mettant à mort tous ceux des habitants qui sont tombés entre leurs mains et en réduisant les autres à la plus misérable situation. Il y a quelque temps le Chef de Police de Pravadi a fait arrêter dix Musulmans de Piradjé et des villages avoisinants sous la fausse accusation de vagabondage.

Après avoir maltraité quatre d'entre eux, il les confia à des gendarmes Bulgares qu'il menaça de mort s'ils les laissaient échapper. Conduits dans une forêt, ces malheureux ont été tués et jetés dans deux puits. Des Musulmans étant allés peu de jours après à la recherche des cadavres des victimes pour leur rendre les derniers devoirs religieux, les Bulgares les chassèrent en les accablant d'injures.

Sous prétexte de rechercher les assassins d'un commerçant tué à Varna, les gendarmes Bulgares ont attaqué les villages Musulmans avoisinants et ont arrêté un grand nombre d'habitants à qui ils ont fait subir toutes sortes de mauvais traitements.

Le nommé Keussé Hussén Oglou Ali, de Sova (district de Pravadi), a été assassiné par les Bulgares, pendant qu'il était en train de couper du bois dans une forêt. Son corps a été retrouvé portant un nombre considérable de blessures, et la tête séparée du tronc. Les autorités Bulgares, informées du fait, n'ont pris aucune mesure pour découvrir les coupables.

Les Musulmans du district de Pravadi ont, d'ailleurs, particulièrement à se plaindre des vexations dont ils sont l'objet de la part des Bulgares. Ceux-ci dévalisent leurs maisons, les maltraitent de la façon la plus cruelle, violent leurs femmes, sans que les autorités semblent se soucier le moins du monde de ces actes criminels.

Lors des élections, on empêche les Musulmans de la Bulgarie d'élire des Députés Musulmans et on les force à donner leurs voix à des Bulgares qui ne possèdent point leur confiance. Cela se passe presque toujours ainsi, contrairement aux règles les plus élémentaires du principe de l'élection.

Les Bulgares font journellement des descentes dans les maisons Musulmanes, et toutes

les fois qu'ils découvrent des armes, ils y trouvent prétexte pour maltraiter leurs propriétaires.

Les habitants Musulmans de Roustchouk sont aussi l'objet des traitements les plus odieux de la part des Bulgares. Des gendarmes ont pénétré dernièrement dans trois maisons Musulmanes sous prétexte d'y rechercher des armes. Ces perquisitions ayant amené la découverte de quelques vieux fusils, leurs propriétaires ont été conduits nuitamment à Cassimlar pour y être incarcérés.

Le lendemain, ces mêmes gendarmes ont amené à Cassimlar une jeune dame Musulmane de Salihler, à laquelle ils ont fait subir les derniers outrages.

Des 2,000 maisons Musulmanes de Sophia, les 1,500 ont été complètement démolies. Les matériaux en ont été distribués aux Bulgares. Quant à leurs emplacements, on leur a fixé un prix illusoire (40 paras par pique), mais on les a vendus au quintuple de ce prix aux indigènes Bulgares et aux immigrants.

On offre aux anciens propriétaires de ces terrains le montant du prix factice précité, déduction faite aussi de 20 pour cent à titre de frais d'embellissement de la ville.

Les 500 maisons qui restent encore debout sont toutes occupées, soit par les Administrations Gouvernementales, soit par des fonctionnaires publics ou officiers de l'armée.

Les propriétaires Musulmans se sont plusieurs fois adressés aux autorités locales pour demander la restitution de leurs biens. Chaque fois il leur a été répondu que ces maisons avaient été vendues et qu'ils devaient consentir à recevoir, comme produit de la vente, une somme illusoire (pour une maison valant 100,000 piastres on n'offre que 3,000 piastres, sur laquelle 20 pour cent devra encore être réduit, comme il a été dit plus haut, pour frais d'embellissement).

Les fermes et métairies abandonnées par les Musulmans émigrés ont été pillées par les Bulgares. Les constructions qu'elles renfermaient ont été détruites. Les terrains nivelés ont été ensuite affermés pour deux ans par les autorités locales à leur propre profit.

De même les immeubles, tels que boutiques, bains, khans, &c., sis à Sophia et appartenant à des Musulmans ont été donnés à loyer par les autorités arbitrairement et sans le consentement des propriétaires, qui se trouvaient présents.

Les titres réguliers de propriété ou tapous ne sont pas reconnus. On demande le témoignage des Bulgares qui le vendent trop cher. Le témoignage des Musulmans les plus respectables n'est pas admis.

En somme, l'état déplorable dans lequel ils se trouvent, forcera les Musulmans de la Bulgarie à s'expatrier. Déjà plusieurs familles Musulmanes de Roustchouk ont émigré dans la Dobroudja.

Des Musulmans de Sophia, en nombre considérable, émigrant aussi à Andrinople pour échapper aux actes vexatoires, aux mauvais traitements, et aux atrocités inouïes dont ils sont continuellement l'objet de la part des Bulgares.

Cette émigration, d'après toutes les apparences, sera suivie de bien d'autres.

No. 585.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 163.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 20, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship that I have addressed to the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs a note, of which copy is herewith inclosed, calling the attention of the Sublime Porte to the alleged connivance of the Turkish authorities in the Vilayet of Scutari with the movements of the Albanian irregulars destined for the defence of Dulcigno.

A Report on this subject has been addressed to your Lordship by Mr. Kirby Green in his despatch No. 186 of the 1st instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 585.

Mr. Goschen to Abédine Pasha.

M. le Ministre, *Therapia, July 20, 1880.*

I THINK it right to place before your Excellency, for the information of the Sublime Porte, the nature of the reports which have lately reached me, and which tend to show that the departure of Albanian irregulars for the defence of Dulcigno has not taken place without the knowledge of the Turkish authorities.

It is stated that Izzet Pasha, the Military and Civil Governor of the Province of Scutari, on the 30th ultimo went to the bazaar on the left bank of the River Boyana, accompanied by many of the high functionaries of the vilayet, where he witnessed the embarkation of a contingent of the Clementi tribe which had arrived from the mountains in the morning.

The movements of the other Albanian irregulars are said to have been carried out with similar publicity, and the force now extending from the Mazurn Mountain to the Bridge of Merat is believed to exceed 3,000 well-armed men.

I have been further informed that, about the 29th June, four native barges full of cases of cartridges for breech-loading rifles were moored for the whole day at the custom-house quays of Scutari, and allowed to leave for Scutari without any obstacle.

At the time when this occurrence took place Izzet Pasha had under his commands, it is reported, seven battalions of regular troops, and it cannot, therefore, be pretended that he was not in a position to control the so-called transit of this large quantity of ammunition.

Your Excellency will not fail to appreciate the impression which such facts must create at a moment when the Sublime Porte is addressing the Great Powers on the subject of the efforts it alleges itself to be making to carry out its engagements to Europe.

It is clear to my mind, from what has been passing for some time, that so long as the present Governor of Scutari is left to carry out the measures necessary to give effect to the cession of territory to Montenegro, the sincerity of the desire to put an end to the present complications must be open to grave doubt.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 586.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 165.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 20, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that on Thursday, the 15th instant, a meeting of the Representatives of the Signatory Powers took place for the purpose of signing the collective note to the Sublime Porte, embodying the decision of the Conference at Berlin on the Turco-Greek boundary.

The German Ambassador, who was to present the note, was very anxious that not a day should be lost, after the necessary instructions had been received, as Thursday had been named at Berlin as the day on which the notes should be delivered. It was not clear that it would be possible for the note to be presented on that day at Athens, but, as Friday is a day when there is no attendance at the Porte, and a loss of two days would have consequently been involved if Count Hatzfeldt had not proceeded to the Porte on Thursday, it was considered best to act at once, telegraphing at the same time to Athens to Mr. Corbett to collect the signatures of the Representatives of the Powers at once, for the note to be presented to the Greek Government, so that the two notes might bear the same date if possible. This was accordingly done, and I learn from a telegram of Mr. Corbett that the collective note presented to the Greek Government was dated on the 15th and presented on the 16th.

I informed your Lordship by telegram of the presentation of the note to the Porte, and have the honour to inclose a copy of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 586.

Collective Note addressed to the Porte.

Constantinople, le 15 Juillet, 1880.

LES Soussignés, Ambassadeurs ou Ministres, &c., près Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Ottomans, ont l'honneur de remettre à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Sublime Porte la note ci-après, d'ordre de leurs Gouvernements. Le Congrès de Berlin, ayant indiqué dans son 13e Protocole les points principaux de la ligne-frontière qu'il jugerait nécessaire d'établir entre la Turquie et la Grèce, les Puissances ont fait appel d'abord à des négociations directes sur cette base entre les deux Etats. A deux reprises dans les Conférences de Preveza et de Constantinople, les Commissaires Turcs et Grecs, après de longs pourparlers, n'ont abouti qu'à constater leurs divergences; en présence de ces tentatives infructueuses, les Puissances désignées par le Traité de Berlin ont jugé nécessaire d'interposer leur médiation.

Cette médiation, pour être efficace, devait s'exercer dans toute sa plénitude, et les Cabinets, en présence des dispositions réciproques des deux Etats intéressés ont prescrit à leurs Représentants réunis en Conférence à Berlin de fixer, en se conformant aux indications générales du Protocole No. 13, une ligne qui constituât entre la Grèce et la Turquie une bonne et solide frontière défensive.

Les Plénipotentiaires, après la discussion la plus attentive, éclairés d'ailleurs par les avis des Commissaires Techniques délégués par leurs Gouvernements, ont voté à l'unanimité, suivant les termes de leur mandat, le tracé contenu dans l'acte suivant qui résume et clôt leurs délibérations:—

"Les pourparlers engagés entre la Turquie et la Grèce pour la rectification de leurs frontières, n'ayant point amené de résultat, les Soussignés, Plénipotentiaires des Puissances appelées par les prévisions de l'Acte du 13 Juillet, 1878, à exercer la médiation entre les deux Etats, se sont réunis en Conférence à Berlin, conformément, et après mûre délibération, s'inspirant de l'esprit et des termes du Protocole No. 13 du Congrès de Berlin, ont adopté à l'unanimité le tracé suivant:—

"La frontière suivra le thalweg du Kalamas depuis l'embouchure de cette rivière dans la Mer Ionienne jusqu'à sa source dans le voisinage de Han-Kalabaki, puis les crêtes qui forme la ligne de séparation entre les bassins.

"Au nord, de la Wouitza, de l'Haliacmon, et du Mavroneri et leurs tributaires.

"Au sud, du Kalamas, de l'Arta, de l'Aspropotamos et du Salambryas (Pénée ancien), et leurs tributaires. Pour aboutir à l'Olympe dont elle suivra la crête jusqu'à son extrémité orientale sur la Mer Egée.

"Cette ligne laisse au sud le Lac de Janina et tous ses affluents, ainsi que Metzovo qui resteront acquis à la Grèce.

"Les Soussignés ont l'honneur de soumettre aux Puissances dont ils sont les Représentants et les mandataires la présente décision, afin qu'elles veuillent bien l'approuver et la notifier aux parties intéressées.

Fait à Berlin le 1er Juillet, 1880.

(Signé) "HOHENLOHE.
"ST. VALLIER.
"LAUNAY.
"SZÉCHÉNYI.
"ODO RUSSELL.
"SABOUROW."

En conséquence, les Gouvernements de l'Allemagne, de l'Autriche-Hongrie, de la France, de la Grande Bretagne, de l'Italie et de la Russie invitent le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Ottomans à accepter la ligne-frontière indiquée dans le document ci-dessus, et que les Puissances Médiatrices, réunies en Conférence, ont unanimement reconnue conforme à l'esprit et aux termes du Traité de Berlin et du Protocole No. 13 du Congrès.

(Signé) HATZFELDT.
NOVIKOFF.
GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.
CORTI.
DUBSKY.
TISSOT.

No. 587.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville—(*Received July 27.*)

(No. 168. Confidential.)

My Lord; *Therapia, July 20, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that on Saturday, the 17th instant, there was a meeting of the Representatives of the Signatory Powers to take into consideration the draft answer to the Turkish note on the subject of reforms in Asia. However, as the Turkish note of the 16th instant, on the Montenegrin frontier question, had just been received, it was considered very important to exchange views on that subject and generally on the situation on the Montenegrin frontier.

Count Corti looked upon the note as insulting and not seriously meant. He explained the important points of his own arrangement made in April last, and how it was now the intention of the Porte to leave out from the ceded districts the most important strategical positions.

Count Hatzfeldt expressed a different opinion. He did not consider the note as insulting, nor as simply meaning evasion or delay. He considered that the Ministers were very anxious indeed to find some solution, and were at their wits' end. He considers that they have lost their heads and no longer know in which direction to turn.

This is my own impression, too, and it was shared by all those present except Count Corti.

The conversation, however, did not turn long upon the advantages or disadvantages of the proposed compromise, because it was clear to most of us that our Governments would certainly not be disposed to entertain it, but, having almost arrived at an agreement as to the answer to be given, would certainly not wish to reopen the question, if it could possibly be avoided.

Information was exchanged as to the movements of the Albanians on the frontier of Montenegro, and all the news received tended to show that the bands of Albanians were moving away from the Dulcigno district and congregating round Tusi.

These movements, in the view of all who were present, became very significant when considered in relation to the declaration of Abédine Pasha, of which I informed your Lordship by telegram, that the Albanians were not likely to oppose the seizure of Dulcigno in face of a naval demonstration of the Powers, but would certainly attack Montenegro elsewhere.

Great importance was attached to this prophecy of Abédine Pasha, looking to the suspicious relations between the authorities and the Albanians. This declaration on his part of what the Albanians would do might not unreasonably be interpreted as what they would be wished to do, and appearances seemed to prove that the necessary preparations were already being made in this direction.

In other words, it seemed probable that the naval demonstration and the seizure of Dulcigno might be the signal for an outbreak of hostilities between the Albanians and Montenegrins in quarters where the ships would be of no avail to assist the Montenegrins.

The Russian Ambassador was greatly moved by the probability of such a contingency, as, indeed, were all my colleagues. I stated my belief that this contingency had not been lost sight of by the Cabinets, and that I myself had telegraphed to my Government what Abédine Pasha had said. The feeling, however, seemed to be that the danger was so very serious that the Ambassadors would not be doing their duty unless they called the special attention of their Governments to the point, and it was generally thought advisable that a communication should by common accord be sent accordingly by the Ambassadors. On my dropping a remark to the effect that such a communication might appear to the Cabinets to mean a warning against the naval demonstration, and might prevent that immediate unanimity which was so desirable, and which Her Majesty's Government were so anxious to obtain, M. Novikoff was somewhat startled for a moment and doubted the expediency of calling the attention of the Cabinets to the contingency. The sense of the meeting, however, was strongly in the other direction. It was our duty to point out consequences which our information here must make us to believe to be probable, and it would be for the Cabinets to appreciate the amount of the risk. It was ultimately agreed that all should telegraph that the coincidence of the movement of Albanian bands in the direction of Tusi, with the language of Abédine Pasha indicating the probable policy of the Albanians, was considered very serious, but each Ambassador was, of course, left free to add any remarks of his own as to the effect which, in his own judgment, the commu-

nication which he made ought to produce on the action taken by the country which he represented.

Your Lordship will not have failed to consider the contingency.

The Montenegrins may be attacked, and it is not certain that they would be victorious if attacked in force. An invasion of Montenegro by the Albanians might, therefore, take place simultaneously with the naval demonstration off Dulcigno, and I venture to think that it will be necessary to be fully prepared for such an event.

The Representatives of the Signatory Powers here consider that it must now be taken as certain that the Albanians are "out of hand." Whatever manœuvres may have been used to produce the excitement, it must be taken to be a reality, and no pressure on the Porte can be relied on as sufficient to check the Albanian bands. The Albanian party has its stronghold in the highest quarters. Albanians have everywhere been placed in positions of trust and honour, and it is a question whether the fear of Albanians is not almost as great as the fear of the consequences of leaving Europe unsatisfied.

Your Lordship will observe that, in the note of the Porte on which I have been addressing your Lordship, the phrase is used, "The Albanians would not oppose the cession." It is significant to see the Albanians thus spoken of as a separate body in any official document.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 588.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 169.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 20, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I yesterday went to see Abédine Pasha in order to communicate to him the substance of your Lordship's telegram No. 260, on the subject of the guarantees which might be given for the protection of the property of Mussulmans in the districts about to be ceded to Greece.

I also mentioned to him the substance of your Lordship's despatch to Mr. Corbett, enumerating the provisions as to the status of Mussulmans in the districts in question, which might be inserted in a Treaty finally regulating the frontier question.

His Excellency stated in reply that he would inform his colleagues of the suggestions I had made, and that till he had seen them he could not give me his official views on the subject, beyond expressing his thanks for the friendly intentions with which my communication had been made. However, he proceeded to state his first impressions on the suggestions unofficially. He asked me in the first instance whether, under all circumstances, private property was not sacred either if territories were ceded by Turkey or conquered by war, and whether, therefore, in any event the Albanian proprietors might not count on the continued enjoyment of their proprietary rights. I said he might answer that question himself by the experience of past and contemporary history. He ought to be able to judge whether guarantees were or were not necessary. He replied that certainly in Servia, Bulgaria, and Roumelia the Mussulman proprietors had been very unfortunate, but that they had had guarantees. The Powers who signed the Treaty of Berlin had intended to secure proprietary rights, but I must know that the result had not been satisfactory. I said I was aware of certain laws which had been passed referring to titles which were said to weigh heavily on the poorer classes of Mussulmans, and that indirectly they might have suffered in their interests. If experience had shown that the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin were insufficient for the thorough protection of Mussulman property, there was all the more reason why the Porte should stipulate for the thorough and effectual guarantees in accepting the award of the Berlin Conference, that if they accepted such an award the greatest consideration would be shown, and it would be wise on the part of the Albanian landowners to accept such a suggestion. His Excellency said that he could not suppose that the peaceful acceptance of the award would make any difference in this respect. Whatever happened, he was sure that the Great Powers, and England especially, who was so careful even of the rights of the poorest slaves, who was so anxious everywhere for the fair treatment of Jews, Mussulmans, or any race, would be anxious that private owners should be secured in their property, and being responsible for the transfer of the territory, would make themselves equally responsible for the security of Mussulman landowners; nor if the Albanian leaders led the people to resist would the Powers wish to punish the innocent by refusing them guarantees for their property. I replied that the Porte must judge of the suggestion I had made. If they were satisfied without guarantees, so much the better. England certainly had never much inclination for formal guarantees; but that the question was not only what would be the probable result, but rather what did the Albanian landowners think at the present moment. I believed that, rightly or wrongly, they were apprehensive as to their being left in the full enjoyment of their proprietary rights, and that the offer of guarantees was certainly calculated to calm their apprehensions, and to facilitate a peaceful solution.

I have telegraphed the substance of this conversation to your Lordship, and I have further suggested that as much publicity should be given to the offer as possible, so that it may be discussed here among the Turks, and, if possible, reach the Albanians. The Government, for reasons of its own, might not care to say much on the subject at present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 589.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 361.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July 22, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a note which I have received from M. de Giers in reply to three notes which I had addressed to him on the 19th instant on receipt of your Lordship's telegrams.

Your Lordship will perceive that the Imperial Government consents—

1. To send in the proposed simultaneous communication respecting the Montenegrin frontier as a reply to the last note received from the Porte upon this subject.

2. To adopt the same concerted action in the Greek frontier question, in the same manner as is now about to be done for the Montenegrin frontier.

3. To authorize their Ambassador at Constantinople to sign, with the other Representatives there, a Protocol, in conformity with the precedents cited by Her Majesty's Government, affirming the disinterestedness of the Powers in the execution of the Treaty of Berlin.

Copies of my three notes thus replied to are inclosed for your Lordship's information.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 589.

M. de Giers to the Earl of Dufferin.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *St. Pétersbourg, le 9 Juillet, 1880.*

EN réponse aux trois communications de votre Excellence en date du 7/19 de ce mois je m'empresse de vous informer, d'ordre de Sa Majesté l'Empereur, que nous acceptons les propositions qu'elles contiennent, c'est-à-dire:

1. Celle de répondre à la dernière note de la Porte sur la question Monténégrine par la sommation à faire à la Turquie conformément à ce qui a été convenu entre les Puissances.

2. D'agir de concert dans la question de la frontière Grecque de la même manière que dans celle de la frontière Monténégrine.

3. De faire signer par les Représentants des Puissances à Constantinople un Protocole constatant les intentions désintéressées des Cabinets dans l'exécution du Traité de Berlin conformément aux précédents analogues auxquels le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique se réfère.

En priant votre Excellence de vouloir bien porter ce qui précède à la connaissance de Lord Granville, j'ai, &c.

(Signé) GIERS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 589.

The Earl of Dufferin to M. de Giers.

M. le Secrétaire d'Etat, *St. Petersburgh, July 7/19*, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the Powers should send in the proposed simultaneous communication respecting the Montenegrin frontier question as a reply to the last note of the Porte on the subject.

Her Majesty's Government consider that, were the Powers to begin to negotiate respecting another form of cession of territory, no result except a fruitless discussion would be obtained, and it is evident, from the recent skirmish which has taken place on the Podgoritza, that the matter requires immediate settlement.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 589.

The Earl of Dufferin to M. de Giers.

M. le Secrétaire d'Etat, *St. Petersburgh, July 7/19*, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to state to your Excellency that Lord Dufferin has been informed by the Earl Granville that the French Government consents to take part in the naval demonstration on the Dulcigno coast on the distinct understanding that, the case occurring, the Six Powers will act in the same manner with regard to the Greek frontier question.

Her Majesty's Government are prepared to give this assurance, and Lord Granville would be glad to learn if the Imperial Russian Government are willing to adopt a similar course.

I avail, &c.
(For the Earl of Dufferin),
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 589.

Mr. Plunkett to M. de Giers.

M. le Secrétaire d'Etat, *St. Petersburgh, July 7/19*, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to state that the Earl of Dufferin has been instructed by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to inquire of your Excellency, in view of the united representations being made by the Powers to the Sublime Porte, if it would not also seem desirable to the Imperial Government that a Protocol should be drawn up and signed by the Ambassadors of the Powers at Constantinople embodying the terms which have been employed on similar previous occasions when concerted action has been agreed upon.

The tenour of the Protocol to be as follows:—

The Governments represented by the Undersigned engage not to seek in any arrangement which may be come to, in consequence of their concerted action for the execution of the Treaty of Berlin, any augmentation of territory, any exclusive influence, or any commercial advantage for their subjects which those of every other nation may not equally obtain.

The precedents for this course to which Her Majesty's Government more especially refer are:—

1. The Protocol signed at St. Petersburgh on the 23rd March/4th April, 1826, relative to the mediation of Great Britain between the Ottoman Porte and the Greeks.

2. In the Treaty signed at London on the 6th July, 1827, between Great Britain, Russia, and France for the pacification of the Levant.

3. In the Protocol signed at London by the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, Russia, Austria, and Prussia, on the 17th September, 1840, for the pacification of the Levant.

4. In the Protocol of the Conference held at Paris on the 3rd August, 1860, relative to the pacification of Syria.

5. In the despatch which was addressed by the Austrian Government to Count

Apponyi on the 1st June, 1866, when, replying to the proposal that Austria should attend a Congress at Paris for prevention of the hostilities which subsequently broke out.

Requesting your Excellency will be so good as to enable the Earl of Dufferin to inform Lord Granville of the views of the Imperial Government on this point, I avail, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 590.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 415.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 23*, 1880.

BARON HAYMERLE has informed me that, in order to maintain the agreement among the Powers respecting a naval demonstration to be made off Dulcigno, he is willing to accept the condition upon which the French Government have made their co-operation depend; and the Imperial Government will be ready to declare that the mode of proceeding proposed by your Lordship in regard to the Montenegrin frontier question may also be applied to the settlement of that of the Greek frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 591.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 417.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 24*, 1880.

I AM informed by Baron Haymerle that he is instructing the Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires to signify to your Lordship the readiness of his Government to join the other Powers in engaging by a Protocol not to seek any special separate advantage for themselves from the naval demonstration to be made for the settlement of the Montenegrin and Greek frontier questions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 592.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 419.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 24*, 1880.

THE Austrian Government have accepted the form of collective note to the Porte, proposed in your Lordship's telegram No. 380, upon the Montenegrin frontier question.

Baron Haymerle said that there was nothing in it to which he could not cordially and willingly agree except the sentence about assisting the Prince of Montenegro to take possession by force of the Dulcigno district "under" the alternative plan.

He did not quite understand the signification to be attached to the word "under," and he asked me if I could explain it.

I said that it simply meant "according to;" and he replied that, if this was so, he had nothing whatever to say against it, or any part of the note.

Your Lordship will perceive from this how carefully the Imperial Government examine every word used in these negotiations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 593.

Baron Haymerlé to M. von Hengelmüller.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by M. von Hengelmüller, July 27.)

(Translation.)
(Confidential.)

MY telegram expressing our consent to the eventual naval demonstration for Greece had been sent off when I received yours informing me of Lord Granville's feeling about our so-called hesitation.

The following exposition of dates will serve to put matters clear:—

On the 16th instant Sir Henry Elliot read to me a telegraphic correspondence between London and Paris, according to which England had then not yet given her assent to the French proposition. On the 20th I received your telegram, dated 19th, through which Lord Granville inquired of our opinion on the subject, having himself merely expressed his regret at the delay caused by the French objections. Your telegram of the 21st informed me of Lord Granville's readiness to accept the French condition. Having expressed our consent in principle on the same day, and our definite adhesion on the 23rd, it seems that this delay is short enough when compared to the time required for the transactions between France and England upon the same subject, and chiefly with regard to the purport of the matter, which goes far beyond an ordinary incident. Not the details, but the thing itself, required consideration.

Neither the Berlin Treaty nor the Berlin Conference Act took any steps in view for collective coercion. The last Protocols of the Berlin Congress bear testimony that the Powers did repudiate such obligation, and have only each for themselves sealed with their signature the strictest observation and maintenance of all its prescriptions.

Measures for collective coercion are therefore a "novum," and have just been decided upon after difficult negotiations with regard to Montenegro, which is already waiting two years for its due. Now, when a few weeks after the Berlin Conference a Government is asked whether they will apply the same measure to the Greek question with all its undeniable difficulties, such question deserves mature consideration, and the Minister would be deficient in his sense of responsibility before his Sovereign and his country who would not take time carefully to weigh the consequences of such a resolution, the more so as the treating affairs by telegraph does not exactly further their clearness. The Power that makes a proposition has had time to weigh it; the Power required to answer the proposition must have time to consider whereto her resolution may lead her.

In such important questions the decision of the Sovereign must be appealed to, and, for the sake of concert, the sentiment of the other Powers must be ascertained. Considering this, Lord Granville will grant that the time that has passed between the question and the answer implies no hesitation on our part.

I wish that no doubt should remain in the mind of Lord Granville thereupon, as we lay the utmost value upon the unreservedness of our relations, upon the mutual confidence and understanding with him. But I claim the acknowledgment that we have not been wanting therein neither. Prudence seemed to us necessary, prudence we all exercise, for we cannot forget the fact that the Eastern question incloses the most difficult problems coming nearest home to us as a neighbouring Power, and that out of seemingly unmenacing Memorandums and Protocols the Russo-Turkish war has arisen.

I hope that the Porte will learn from the experience that, although the Powers subject their steps to mature mutual discussion, their concert is still arrived at and contains the more guarantees for its durable existence.

You will read this despatch to Lord Granville, and add, concerning the difficulties that have arisen in Constantinople at the occasion of the presentation of the Dulcigno note, that it was the Russian Ambassador who has made objections about the redaction and the reserves of Montenegro.

(Signed) HAYMERLE.

No. 594.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 58.) *Scutari, July 26, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

PREPARATIONS are being made to deliver a serious attack within the next few days on the Montenegrin positions in the Podgoritza plain.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 595.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27.)

Salonica, July 27, 1880.
(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE received following from Vice-Consul Longworth, dated yesterday:—

"General desertion amongst troops in Thessaly; cause—arrears, neglect, protracted service. Many imprisoned. A large number surrendered arms, demanding discharge. Artillery refused to fire last night Sultan's birthday salute."

No. 596.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27.)

Salonica, July 27, 1880.
(Telegraphic.)

THE following Turkish ships of war are stationed in the port and Gulf of Volo:—

2 ironclads, 1 corvette, 1 gun-boat, 1 despatch-boat, and 1 transport.

No. 597.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27, 8·30 A.M.)

(No. 144.) *Therapia, July 27, 1880, 12·30 A.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

WE shall probably receive the answer from the Porte as to Greece to-morrow morning. There is much talk of armaments and movements of troops, but the Sultan is said to be in a better disposition. I see him to-morrow at noon, and the Ministers afterwards.

As to Montenegrin frontier, Italian Ambassador learnt from the Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Turks will, on receiving our reply, which they say they hope to receive at once, accept Dulcigno proposal, and immediately withdraw the Turkish authorities from that district. It would be unnecessary, Minister for Foreign Affairs said, to send the fleets to compel them. They would leave the Montenegrins to occupy the district. Would the Powers be satisfied?

On Count Corti remarking that there were [? volunteers] in important strategical positions, who would have to be dealt with, Minister for Foreign Affairs was confused, and Count Corti gathered that the Porte did not propose to do more than withdraw regular troops and civil authorities. Such was his strong impression, which was confirmed by French Ambassador, who likewise saw Minister for Foreign Affairs, but the intention to [? accept] the Dulcigno cession with alacrity may possibly justify a more hopeful view.

I hope we may receive instructions to-morrow or next day to present the note.

No. 598.

Major-General Sir E. Hamley to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27, 2·15 P.M.)

Erzeroum, July 27, 1880, 10 A.M.
(Telegraphic.)

COMMISSION at Medjingert. I trust your Lordship is pressing Russian Government to give their Commissioner fresh instructions according to my telegram of the 21st July. He wishes to impose his will upon the Commission, which cannot be allowed, and great difficulties may arise if he persists.

No. 599.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 325.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, July 27, 1880, 5 P.M.

MR. CORBETT reports communication to Greek Government of substance of my despatch No. 83 of the 28th ultimo. M. Tricoupi said Greek Government would be ready to engage as follows:—

1. To assure religious liberty, in accordance with Treaty of Berlin, to ceded populations.
2. To secure rights of property.
3. To secure *bond fide* property of State and religious foundations, as in Berlin Treaty.
4. To allow a sufficient term for persons desiring to retain Turkish nationality to leave, sell or lease their property, or have it administered through agents.
5. Not to interfere with persons or property of inhabitants on account of political acts previous to the union.
6. All Mussulmans to be entitled to the full enjoyment of civil and political rights, and admission to public offices, professions, &c.
7. Greece to take share of Turkish debt for Epirus and Thessaly.

No. 600.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27, 7 P.M.)

(No. 62.)
(Telegraphic.)
Paris, July 27, 1880, 4·30 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 321.

I have communicated to M. de Freycinet your telegram No. 380 to Sir H. Elliot.

M. de Freycinet asked me if I had received from your Lordship instructions to inform him that the second condition he had made to Lord Lyons was agreed to by the Powers, that is to say, that they would give a similar assurance with respect to Greek frontier as for Montenegro.

I replied that I understood the Powers had agreed to do so, but I had no instructions.

His Excellency then said that if your Lordship would inform him of this officially through me, he would agree to the collective note which I had communicated to him, with the following reservation: It must be clearly understood that the word "assistance," in the last paragraph, meant a naval demonstration only, and not cannon-shots or disembarkation of troops by the Powers.

He promised to send me a note on this point in time for this evening's messenger.

No. 601.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27, 11·30 P.M.)

(No. 99.)
(Telegraphic.)
Rome, July 27, 1880, 8 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's No. 380.

Italian Government concur in draft of collective note respecting Montenegro.

No. 602.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 464.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, July 27, 1880.

I ASKED the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires this afternoon whether he was aware of the reasons for which his Government had proposed to restrict the Protocol renouncing any selfish aims on the part of the Powers to their action in regard to the Greek and Montenegrin frontiers. I said that the Protocol, as proposed by Her Majesty's Government, applied generally to the concerted action of the Powers for the execution of the Treaty of Berlin. The German Government, as well as ourselves, had noticed the distinction, for they had expressed their willingness to sign the Protocol in either shape.

As M. Hengelmüller professed himself ignorant of the grounds on which the change had been made, I requested him to ask his Government whether it was accidental or intentional. If the latter, I should be glad to know the object, as the question was sure to be put by the other Powers if they were asked to change the form to which they have agreed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 603.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 436.)
My Lord,
Foreign Office, July 27, 1880.

THE German Chargé d'Affaires called yesterday and read a despatch from his Government stating that the German Government had received the text of the Austrian modifications in the draft Protocol, of which a copy was forwarded to your Excellency in my despatch No. 399 of the 17th instant, and that they were ready to adopt the text either in the form proposed by Her Majesty's Government or in the terms proposed by the Austrian Government, but that they thought it might save time if the latter were at once accepted.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 604.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.**

(No. 999.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, July 27, 1880.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your confidential information, a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople recording the sense entertained by Her Majesty's Government of the dangers which would accrue to the Sultan's Government from resistance to the decision of the Berlin Conference on the Greek frontier question, and authorizing his Excellency to make a communication to the Sultan on the subject.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 605.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 465. Confidential.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, July 27, 1880.

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me this afternoon and read to me a despatch from Baron Haymerle, of which he left a translation confidentially in my hands. I inclose a copy herewith.‡

The despatch explains and justifies the course taken by the Austrian Government in regard to the assurance which the French Government had required before consenting to take part in the naval demonstration off Dulcigno.

I told the Chevalier Hengelmüller that when I had spoken to him on the 22nd instant (as reported in my despatch to your Excellency No. 458 of the 23rd), I was of course unaware that a telegram was on its way to him from Vienna intimating the consent of his Government to give the assurance in question.

As soon as I received a communication to that effect I had expressed my satisfaction, and I would now beg him to repeat to his Government the pleasure with which I had received the assurances of their continued confidence and desire to act in cordial co-operation with us—feelings which are fully reciprocated by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* Also to Mr. Macdonell. † No. 482. ‡ No. 593.

No. 606.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 303.)

Foreign Office, July 27, 1880.

Sir,

I INCLOSE copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Corbett, stating the engagements into which the Greek Government is prepared to enter with regard to the territories to be ceded to Greece,* in reply to my despatch No. 83 of the 28th ultimo, of which a copy was sent to your Excellency on the 8th instant.

The substance of Mr. Corbett's despatch has been telegraphed to your Excellency.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 607.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 28.)

(No. 210. Political.)

Scutari, July 14, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a note from Voïvoda Radonich on the subject of the attack, the day before yesterday, by the North Albanians on the Montenegrin outposts in the plain of Podgoritza.

I have no doubt whatever that M. Radonich's account is substantially correct, for I had been aware for some days past that a hostile demonstration against the Montenegrins had been planned by the Scutari Committee, although I was in hopes that messages I had sent to the Commanders at the camp at Tousi would put a stop to the projected aggression.

It was this knowledge of the intended fighting which made me express to your Lordship, on the 10th instant, the greatest misgivings on the good faith of the offer made at Cettinjé by the Turkish Envoy to surrender peaceably the territories ceded by the April Protocol, and also to communicate earlier on the same day the possibility of the commencement of hostilities.

I have every reason to believe that the North Albanians have been secretly pushed on into committing the present outrage by the Turkish authorities, who, instead of telling them that the Porte was making arrangements for the execution of the April Arrangement, led them to understand that it was the Powers who were forcing it upon the Turkish Government, and that therefore some act of violence was necessary to make Europe comprehend that the North Albanians have still a will of their own.

The fighting, as a military affair, appears to have no importance. A certain number of bands of mountaineers proceeded before daylight on the morning of the 12th in different directions towards the line of Montenegrin outposts on the Podgoritza plain. An exchange of shots ensued here and there, and a small entrenched outpost near the village of Golubovci was surprised and rapidly overcome by one of the Albanian bands, composed principally of Hotti tribesmen and natives of Tousi. It was probably the intimate knowledge possessed by these mountaineers of the locality which enabled them to approach the Montenegrins without being noticed. The barbarous decapitation of the thirteen men can only be looked upon as a necessary consequence of all fighting which may occur here from the irresponsible colour given to the North Albanian resistance against Montenegro.

The news of the fight reached Scutari on the 12th before noon, and no attempt was made to disguise the fact that the Albanians had invaded the Montenegrin lines. It was, however, said that the fight was commenced by the Montenegrins, as their sentries were the first to open fire.

I shall reply to Voïvoda Radonich that your Lordship is kept fully informed of all that is passing here and on the frontier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

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* No. 613.

Inclosure in No. 607.

M. Radonich to Mr. Kirby Green.

Cettinjé, le 29 Juin / 12 Juillet, 1880.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

AUJOURD'HUI, 29 Juin / 12 Juillet, à 2 heures du matin, tous nos avant-postes dans la Zeta ont été attaqués par les Turcs. L'un d'eux, placé près de Golubovci, a été surpris et mis en pièces: dix des seize hommes qui le composaient ont eu la tête coupée; les six autres, quoique blessés, ont pu s'échapper.

En portant à votre connaissance ce fait sanglant, le Gouvernement Princier vous prie, M. le Chargé d'Affaires, de vouloir bien attirer l'attention de votre Gouvernement sur la coïncidence singulière de cette attaque subite se produisant juste au moment où Khalid Bey, représentant de la Turquie à Cettinjé, nous faisait de la part de la Porte la déclaration qu'elle était prête à exécuter pacifiquement le Mémorandum du 12 Avril et qu'elle en donnerait incessamment avis aux Puissances. Quoique nous ayons répondu que nous ne pouvions entrer directement en négociations avec la Turquie, ayant laissé la solution de cette question à la décision des Grandes Puissances, nous avions lieu de croire que la déclaration qui nous était faite marquait des intentions conciliatrices et nous ne pouvions nous attendre à une attaque qui a entraîné tant de victimes.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) RADONICH.

No. 608.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 28.)

(No. 211. Political.)

Scutari, July 15, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that very considerable activity has once more appeared in North and North-East Albania with regard to that movement which has been styled the "Albanian League," and which has appeared and disappeared as the Porte has been more or less pressed by the European Powers to settle its pending differences with Montenegro.

An Assembly of Albanian Deputies has been once more convened at Prisrend for an early date, and Delegates have been named by most of the districts, and are on their way to that place of meeting. As heretofore, these Delegates are mostly either active or retired Turkish officials, and will probably continue to obey the secret instructions of the Porte.

The person sent by Scutari is Edhem Agha Cazaz, a member of one of the Local Tribunals.

Probably when the Porte makes an apparent attempt to fulfil the Protocol of the 18th April last, the Assembly at Prisrend will emit some Decree which the Porte will consider itself unable to oppose, and thus once again the will of the Albanians will be said to have interfered with the desire of the Ottoman Government to comply with the counsels of the Great Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 609.

Consul Sandwith to Earl Granville.—(Received July 28.)

(No. 33. Political.)

Canea, Crete, July 17, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour in my last despatch to report to your Lordship that a petition had been numerously signed in this island praying for its annexation to Greece. It would appear that inquiries were at the same time made by those charged with obtaining signatures to the petition whether, in the event of hostilities breaking out between Greece and Turkey, Cretan volunteers could be counted on by the Greek Government for carrying the war into the enemy's country. I understand that several Christian Chiefs offered to raise bodies of men if desired to do so, and it is thought that at least 2,000 volunteers

could be got together for so popular a service. No excitement, however, can be said to exist on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 610.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received July 28.)

(No. 74. Political.)
Salonica, July 17, 1880.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the translation of an extract from the "Cossova Gazette," furnishing the numbers of the Mahommedan and non-Mahommedan male inhabitants in the Vilayet of Cossova.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 610.

Extract from the "Cossova Gazette" of July 14, 1880.

(Translation.)

ON receipt of the answers made by the dependencies of the province to the General Government a statistical Table of the population was drawn up, which shows that in the Sandjaks of Pristina, Useub, Yeni-Buzar, and Taschleju, which make up the present Vilayet of Cossova, the male population consists of 195,824 Mussulmans, 116,670 Christians, and 475 , making a total of 312,969.

No. 611.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received July 28.)

(No. 75. Political.)
Salonica, July 17, 1880.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a Return of the Turkish troops in the Vilayet of Salonica, which I have compiled from data procured from a trustworthy quarter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 611.

RETURN of Ottoman Troops in the Vilayet of Salonica.

INFANTRY.

Stations.	The Number of the—			Strength in Men.	Remarks.
	Army Corps.	Regiment.	Battalion.		
Salonica	3	2	3	393	2 Companies of this battalion are stationed in district of Cassandra.
Caraferia	Hassa ..	17	3	337	
Ditto	Ditto ..	17	4	460	
Kozana	Ditto ..	8	2	496	
Zilina	2	4	2	398	
Serres	Hassa ..	1	1	553	
Razlog	Ditto ..	4	4	344	
Djumia	2	4	3	406	
Ditto	2	..	2	323	Talia (Chasseurs).
Strumitcha	3	..	1	423	Ditto.
Petrich and Vodina ..	5	5	2	610	362 at Vodina and 248 at Petrich.
Total	..	..	..	4,742	

CAVALRY.

Stations.	The Number of the—		Strength in—		Remarks.
	Army Corps.	Regiment.	Men.	Horses.	
Salonica	Hassa ..	6	240	352	
Caraferia					
Serres					
Caraferia	3	2	44	62	1st Bulok.
Kozana	3	1	62	85	1st and 2nd Buluks.
Salonica	Hassa ..	3	19	31	
Total	..	..	365	530	

ARTILLERY.

Stations.	Number of the—		Strength in—			Remarks.
	Army Corps.	Battery.	Men.	Horses.	Guns.	
Salonica	..	..	34	..	..	Garrison artillerymen.
Yenidjeh	2	3	98	(?)	6	Field.
Ditto	..	..	122	(?)	6	Reserve artillery mountain guns.
Total	..	..	256	(?)	12	

	Men.
Albanian Irregulars	1,200
Recruits	145
Musical band	44

SUMMARY.

	Men.
Infantry	4,742
Cavalry	365
Artillery	256
Irregulars	1,200
Recruits	146
Musical band	44
Total strength in men	6,753

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Salonica, July 10, 1880.

No. 612.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received July 28.)

(No. 660.)
Paris, July 27, 1880.
My Lord,

I HAVE this afternoon seen M. de Freycinet, and have communicated to his Excellency the draft collective note respecting Montenegro which was proposed by your Lordship to the Austro-Hungarian Government in your telegram No. 380 to Sir H. Elliot of the 22nd instant, and which has since been accepted by Baron Haymerle.

I asked M. de Freycinet if the French Government would agree to instruct their Representative at Constantinople to join in presenting this note to the Porte.

M. de Freycinet began by reminding me of the second condition which he had laid down in his conversations with Lord Lyons, viz., that he would only accede to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government for a united naval demonstration by the Powers off Duleigno if your Lordship would obtain for him an assurance from the other five Powers that they would join in a similar demonstration with reference to the Greek frontier when the moment arrived.

His Excellency asked me if I could give him this assurance from your Lordship; that it was to Her Majesty's Government that the condition had been made, and that he therefore expected to hear from your Lordship on the subject.

I replied that I understood that the Powers had agreed to give the assurance, but that I had no instructions to say so to him.

M. de Freycinet then begged me to tell your Lordship that if you would instruct me to inform him officially that the other five Powers agreed to give the assurance he required with regard to the Greek frontier question, he would then be prepared to instruct the French Ambassador at Constantinople to join with his colleagues in addressing to the Porte a collective note in the terms of that which I had just communicated to him.

His Excellency, however, proceeded to make one reservation. He said that it must be clearly understood that the assistance to be afforded by the Powers to the Prince of Montenegro was to be limited to a naval demonstration and was not to go further, i.e., that there were to be no cannon-shots or disembarkation of troops on the part of the Powers.

In order that his meaning should be perfectly clear, M. de Freycinet said that he would send to me, in time for this evening's messenger, a note upon this point; and I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the communication which I have just received from his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

Inclosure in No. 612.

M. de Freycinet to Mr. Adams.

Présidence du Conseil, le 27 Juillet, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

JE m'empresse de vous faire connaître que le Gouvernement Français adhérera au projet de note collective que vous avez bien voulu me communiquer de la part de Lord Granville, aussitôt que vous m'aurez transmis l'avis officiel que toutes les Puissances sont d'accord pour appliquer au réglement des frontières Grecques le même procédé qu'au réglement des frontières Monténégrines.

Dans la pensée du Gouvernement Français l'assistance à prêter éventuellement au Prince de Monténégro doit consister dans une simple "démonstration navale" dans laquelle les pavillons des six Grandes Puissances seront représentés.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) C. DE FREYCINET.

No. 613.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 28.)

(No. 145.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 27, 1880.

AFTER a long preamble and recital, the Porte's answer to collective note states that it is necessary to point out, for the equitable consideration of the Powers, how perplexing, as well as painful, is its position in consequence of their demands.

When signing the Treaty of Berlin, Porte did not expect to receive from mediating Powers a proposal which has for its object cession of territory belonging to Albania, as well as of the whole of Thessaly, a cession amounting to a territory nearly half the size of Greece.

Note then proceeds to point out strategical objections to the line drawn at Berlin, and it further states that the strategical points assigned to Greece by Conference, such as Metzovo, which are of great military importance for communications with Lower Albania, would expose contiguous provinces to attacks from which the Porte would be without defence. On the other hand, the Porte cannot understand why, in view of defence, the Conference has selected in Epirus the thalweg of the Kalamas, while in Thessaly, instead of that of the Salambria, the frontier-line is made to rise to the crest of the northern slopes.

The Porte thinks that, from a political point of view, this would offer in its application great difficulties, and impose on her sacrifices to which it would be impossible for her to submit.

How could she consent to cession of Janina, which the Albanians, who also, like other natives of the Empire, think themselves a distinct race, and not less interesting, consider as

the capital of Southern Albania, to which they notoriously cling with such obstinacy? Is it not evident, that if the Porte concurs to sacrifice a town so important in every respect, she would provoke grave complications, which might perhaps compromise the peace in this part of Turkey in Europe? Is it possible for the Porte to dispossess the Albanians of certain prosperous districts belonging to their race, especially Tchamouri, which is inhabited exclusively by Albanians, chiefly Mahommedan?

On the side of Thessaly the Porte would be facing difficulties of equal gravity. There is the populous and important town of Larissa, three-quarters Mussulman, and surrounded by a series of Mussulman districts and villages. Is it possible that, contrary to the solicitude evinced by the Christian Powers of Europe in favour of a Christian kingdom, the Sultan, the Caliph and head of the Mussulman religion, should go as far as to sacrifice a large town essentially Mussulman, and cause discontent, not only among its inhabitants at this moment [?] Imperial protection, but also among Mussulmans generally.

M. Waddington himself, when proposing a line of frontier and a cession of territory to Greece, excluded the town of Janina and the district of Tchamouri.

The note concludes by hoping that Powers will not deny the Porte's right to participate in the final settlement of the Greek frontier, as it did in that of Servia and Montenegro, and that Powers will see the reasons which oblige her to insist on the retention of Janina, Larissa, Metzovo, and of localities inhabited by a large Mussulman population.

The Porte begs through me and my colleagues that the mediating Powers should be asked to authorize their Representatives at Constantinople to treat with the Porte, with a view to facilitating negotiations respecting a final decision, not only as regards the line of frontier, but also secondary points and details relating to that question.

No. 614.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 28, 6 P.M.)

(No. 146.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 28, 1880, 12:30 P.M.

LORD E. FITZMAURICE has communicated to me his telegram to your Lordship on the subject of Albania, and your reply received yesterday morning. I have also read his despatch, forwarded by messenger yesterday. It is impossible to judge of the merits of the question on the telegrams alone. I have written a full despatch, stating my views, which has also been forwarded by messenger. Pray suspend your judgment till you have read the despatches.

No. 615.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 28, 3 P.M.)

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, July* 27, 1880, 11:30 A.M.

YOUR telegram No. 37 of yesterday.

All the suggestions I have to make are contained in the latter part of my despatch No. 128 of the 29th May and in my despatch No. 176 of the 27th ultimo. I, however, urge a strict observance of the terms of the third paragraph of Article No. XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 616.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 28, 11·5 A.M.)

(No. 60.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, July* 27, 1880, 7 P.M.

THE Scutari Committee has definitively rejected the advice of the Albanian Commissioners from Constantinople.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 617.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 28, 11·5 A.M.)

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, July* 27, 1880, 7·10 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 37 of yesterday, the Porte has announced to-day by telegraph considerable changes in the formation of this vilayet.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 618.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 28.)

(No. 70.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, July* 28, 1880.

YOUR Lordship's No. 335.

German Government concur in draft of collective note respecting Montenegro in your Lordship's telegram to Sir Henry Elliot No. 380 of 22nd instant.

No. 619.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 428.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 28, 1880, 3 P.M.

WITH reference to General Hamley's telegrams of the 26th and 27th July, repeated to you, ask Russian Government if they see any objection to proceeding as he proposes, as it would save time and expense.

No. 620.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 28, 3·10 P.M.)

(No. 25.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, July* 28, 1880, 12·30 P.M.

GREAT Powers, except England, have now no objection to mobilization of Greek army.

M. Tricoupi would be glad to know your Lordship has no objection to the measure.

No. 621.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 28, 4·30 P.M.)

(No. 30.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, July* 28, 1880, 10 A.M.

I AM sending by messenger an *ex officio* plan for Albania, based on applying the new law to north-east district, where a local Commission was held at Prisrend, and calling local Commissions at Berat, El-Bassan, and the principal towns of the three other districts. The Commission would adjourn to give time to these to report, say, till the 16th October. The condition of things in Macedonia and Thrace is so bad that not a day's delay should take place in applying new law to them. If we wait for all Albania to be arranged, we may be too late. Should Government approve this idea, and my colleagues agree to it, new law might be in the hands of the several Governments by the 15th August, I think.

No. 622.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1014.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 28, 1880.

I REQUESTED the French Minister to call upon me this afternoon, and I spoke to him on the subject of the communication made to you by M. de Freycinet as reported in your telegram No. 62 and your despatch No. 660 of yesterday's date.

I said that, before agreeing to the principle of a naval demonstration off Duleigno, the French Government had required an assurance from all the other Powers that they would be ready, if occasion arose, to take similar action for the settlement of the Greek frontier.

This assurance we had given for ourselves and had also obtained from the other Powers.

The French Government had before them the terms of the note which it was proposed to address to the Porte in regard to the Montenegrin frontier, and which contained nothing to which the other Powers were not prepared to agree.

But it now appeared that M. de Freycinet wished to attach two further conditions to the French participation in a naval demonstration for the settlement of this question. These were, firstly, that no troops should be landed; and, secondly, that no cannon-shots should be fired.

As regards the first condition, I had only to say that the landing of troops did not form part of the proposal that had been made, which went no further than the presence of a naval force. But the second condition tended to deprive the demonstration of all value and effect. It seemed to me impossible to tie the hands of our Naval Commanders to the extent which such a condition would involve. Suppose, for instance, that Duleigno were in the possession of the Montenegrins, and an attack upon the town were commenced by an Albanian force; were the vessels of war stationed off the coast to be restricted from firing a shell over the assailants to show that the town was held under the protection of the united Powers?

I said I should be glad to understand also whether M. de Freycinet intended the same restriction to apply to any demonstration for the settlement of the Greek frontier, and what results he expected from such measures.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 623.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1020. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 28, 1880.

I TOLD Count de Montebello this afternoon that we might expect to receive at once the reply of the Porte to the collective note respecting the Greek frontier.

As soon as it was in our hands I should be glad to enter into confidential communication with the French Government as to the steps that should be taken upon it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 624.

Earl Granville to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 412.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 28, 1880.

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and informed me that his Government were ready to agree to the terms of the identic note to the Porte on the subject of the Montenegrin frontier question as proposed by us. They understood that the draft had already been accepted by the Austrian Government.

I said that this was the case, and that the German Government had now also agreed to it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 625.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 247.)
Athens, July 18, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Greek Government have received information that the Turkish soldiers forming the garrison of Domoko, a fortified place commanding one of the main roads leading from this country into Thessaly, have mutinied and murdered the Pasha who commanded them.

They have taken refuge, to the number of 400, on Greek territory, and the Government have given orders that they should be disarmed and supplied with food.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 626.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 248.)
Athens, July 18, 1880.

My Lord,

I AM informed by M. Tricoupi that the French Government have agreed to sell to the Government of this country the number of rifles which the latter may require from their Government stores.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 627.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 662.)
Paris, July 28, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of an article which appeared in yesterday evening's issue of the "Temps," with reference to the contemplated dispatch of German officials to Constantinople and French officers to Athens.

The article combats the endeavours of opposition papers to establish a connection between these two missions, and a rivalry between Germany and France, who have been accused of espousing, one the cause of Turkey, the other the cause of Greece.

The article states that the King of Greece had asked for French officers to instruct his army previous to His Majesty's visit to Paris; that the mission cannot be looked upon as an act hostile to Turkey; that it is technical and not military, and it estimates the number at six rather than sixty.

In conclusion, the article declares that owing to the accelerated course of events, and to public rumours tending to give a wrong impression as to the real character of these missions, France and Germany have postponed their dispatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 628.

Aléddine Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, July 29.)

(Télégraphique.)
Constantinople, le 27 Juillet, 1880.

PAR une note collective en date du 15 de ce mois, les Représentants des Six Grandes Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin à Constantinople, en me communiquant le texte de l'Acte qui a résumé et clos les délibérations des Plénipotentiaires réunis en Conférence, invitaient la Sublime Porte au nom de leurs Gouvernements à accepter la ligne-frontière indiquée dans cet Acte.

La Sublime Porte a examiné attentivement cette importante communication et m'a chargé, après une longue délibération, d'y faire la réponse suivante:

"Le Soussigné, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté l'Empereur des

Ottomans, a eu l'honneur de recevoir la note que leurs Excellences MM. les Ambassadeurs d'Allemagne, de Russie, de la Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, de France, et le Ministre d'Autriche-Hongrie lui ont adressée en date du 15 de ce mois relativement à la rectification de la frontière Hellénique.

"Par cette note, leurs Excellences rappellent les négociations directes tentées à deux reprises par les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans et Hellènes en vue de parvenir à une entente sur cette question; elles déclarent que, en présence de ces tentatives infructueuses, les Puissances désignées par le Traité de Berlin ont jugé nécessaire d'offrir leur médiation et ont prescrit à leurs Représentants réunis en Conférence à Berlin de fixer une ligne-frontière entre la Grèce et la Turquie; elles communiquent au Soussigné le texte de l'Acte qui a résumé et clos les délibérations des Plénipotentiaires et par lequel ces derniers ont soumis à leurs Gouvernements le tracé qu'ils ont adopté à l'unanimité afin qu'ils voulussent bien approuver leur décision et la notifier aux parties intéressées; enfin, leurs Excellences invitent la Sublime Porte au nom de leurs Gouvernements à accepter la ligne-frontière indiquée par la document susmentionné.

"La Sublime Porte a voué la plus sérieuse attention à l'examen de cette importante communication; et, plus elle est désireuse de témoigner de sa déférence pour les Grandes Puissances amies avec lesquelles elle a signé le Traité de Berlin, plus elle éprouve le besoin de signaler à leur appréciation équitable la position aussi perplexe que pénible où elle se trouve placée par l'invitation qui vient de lui être adressée.

"La Sublime Porte ne doute nullement que les Puissances dont elle connaît les sentiments de justice et auxquelles elle ne saurait jamais supposer l'intention de porter atteinte à sa souveraineté, n'accueillent avec bienveillance les observations que le Soussigné est chargé de présenter à leurs Excellences en réponse à leur note précitée.

"En signant le Traité de Berlin, la Sublime Porte ne s'attendait pas, à propos d'un vœu concernant la rectification de la frontière Hellénique en Epire et en Thessalie, à recevoir des Puissances Médiatrices une proposition ayant pour objet la cession de pays appartenant aux Albanais ainsi que de la Thessalie tout entière, c'est-à-dire de la totalité de la vallée du Pénée avec ses deux versants, cession qui consisterait à annexer au Royaume Hellénique un territoire presque égal à la moitié de la superficie actuelle de ce royaume.

"Dans leur note précitée leurs Excellences affirment que les Puissances ont prescrit à leurs Plénipotentiaires réunis en Conférence à Berlin de fixer, en se conformant aux indications générales du Protocole 13, une ligne qui constituât entre la Grèce et la Turquie une bonne et solide frontière défensive.

"Mais la Sublime Porte regrette de devoir faire observer que la ligne de frontière qu'elle est invitée à accepter ne présente guère ces conditions en ce qui la concerne. En effet, personne ne saurait attribuer à la Sublime Porte la pensée ou le désir de viser à une extension territoriale aux dépens d'un autre Etat, tandis que l'objet d'une bonne et solide ligne défensive serait de garantir plutôt la Sublime Porte contre la possibilité de pareilles aspirations à son préjudice.

"Or, les points stratégiques assignés à la Grèce par la Conférence, tels que Metsovo position d'une grande importance militaire pour les communications avec la Basse-Albanie, exposeraient les provinces limitrophes à des attaques contre lesquelles la Sublime Porte se trouverait sans défense. D'autre part, même comme but défensif, la Sublime Porte ne saurait s'expliquer pourquoi la Conférence a adopté du côté de l'Epire le thalweg du Calamas, tandis que du côté de la Thessalie, au lieu de suivre le thalweg du Pénée, elle fait remonter la ligne-frontière aux sommets du versant septentrional de la vallée.

"La Sublime Porte se borne à ce peu d'observations en ce qui concerne le côté stratégique de la ligne-frontière proposée par la Conférence; mais, envisagée au point de vue politique, cette ligne présenterait dans son application de graves difficultés et imposerait à la Sublime Porte des sacrifices auxquels il lui serait impossible de se soumettre.

"En effet, comment lui serait-il possible de consentir à la cession de Janina que les Albanais qui, eux aussi, se croient à l'exemple d'autres nationalités de l'Empire, une race distincte et non moins intéressante, ont de tout temps considéré comme la capitale de la Basse-Albanie, à la possession de laquelle ils tiennent comme on le sait avec tant d'obstination? N'est-il pas évident que si la Sublime Porte se décidait à sacrifier une ville si importante sous tous les rapports, elle provoquerait de graves complications qui compromettraient peut-être l'exercice paisible de son autorité dans cette partie de la Turquie d'Europe? Serait-il possible à la Sublime Porte de déposséder les Albanais de certaines autres localités appartenant à leur race et surtout du pays de Tchamouri, habité exclusivement par des Albanais, dont la majorité professe la religion Musulmane?

"Du côté de la Thessalie la Sublime Porte se trouverait en face de difficultés non moins graves. Il y a Larisse, ville populeuse et importante, habitée pour les trois quarts

par des Musulmans et entourée d'une série de districts et de villages Musulmans. Serait-il possible que, contrairement à la sollicitude manifestée pas les Puissances Chrétiennes de l'Europe en faveur d'un royaume Chrétien, Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, le Calife, et le Chef de la religion Musulmane, allât jusqu'à sacrifier une grande ville essentiellement Musulmane et à mécontenter non-seulement ses habitants qui implorent en ce moment la protection Impériale, mais tous les Musulmans en général? D'ailleurs, si Larisse était cédée à la Grèce, la population Musulmane en émigrerait comme elle l'avait fait du Royaume Hellénique où il ne reste actuellement qu'une dizaine de familles Musulmanes demeurant à Chalcis, et la décadence, la ruine d'une ville aujourd'hui populeuse et prospère ne tarderait pas à être complète.

"Ce qui démontre que le côté politique d'une rectification des frontières entre la Grèce et la Turquie mérite une considération spéciale, c'est que M. Waddington, le Premier Plénipotentiaire de France, qui avait pris l'initiative de cette proposition au sein du Congrès, n'a pas hésité, lorsque plus tard, en sa qualité de Président du Conseil et Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, il a proposé à l'acceptation des autres Puissances une ligne-frontière, à exclure du territoire à céder à la Grèce la ville de Janina et le pays de Tchamouri, et que s'il avait opiné pour cette exclusion c'était sans doute en considération des complications que produirait la résistance bien connue des Albanais. La Sublime Porte est fondée à croire que les autres Puissances ne peuvent que partager sur ce point les vues de M. Waddington et qu'aucune d'elles ne doit désirer l'annexion forcée au Royaume Hellénique d'une population Musulmane contre sa volonté et alors qu'elle serait assez nombreuse pour qu'une telle annexion devînt une source de dangers et de troubles.

"En soumettant à leurs Excellences les considérations qui précèdent, le Soussigné est autorisé à leur déclarer que la Sublime Porte par déférence pour les Puissances amies n'en est pas moins disposée à faire, malgré tout, au Royaume Hellénique quelques concessions et à s'entendre avec elles en vue de hâter le réglement satisfaisant et définitif de cette question. Mais, d'un autre côté, comptant avec confiance sur les sentiments de justice des Puissances qui n'ont jamais méconnu ses droits de souveraineté, elle s'attend qu'elles ne méconnaissent pas non plus son droit incontestable de participer à la fixation de la ligne-frontière définitive de la Grèce au même titre qu'elle a participé à la détermination de celles de la Servie et du Monténégro, et qu'elles voudront bien apprécier les raisons qui la mettent dans la nécessité d'insister sur la conservation de Janina, de Larisse, de Metsovo, et de certaines localités habitées par une nombreuse population Musulmane.

"Enfin, le Soussigné est chargé par son Gouvernement d'exprimer à leurs Excellences l'espoir que les observations contenues dans la présente note responsive seront prises par leurs Gouvernements en bienveillante considération, et de prier, par l'entremise de leurs Excellences les Puissances Médiatrices, de vouloir bien autoriser leurs Représentants à s'entendre avec la Sublime Porte en vue de faciliter les négociations tant sur la fixation définitive de la ligne-frontière que sur les points secondaires et les détails qui se rattachent à cette question.

"Le Soussigné saisit cette occasion pour réitérer à leurs Excellences l'assurance de sa haute considération."

Veuillez dans vos entretiens avec le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères faire valoir les considérations développées dans ma note responsive.

No. 629.

Abédine Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey July* 29.)

Constantinople, le 27 Juillet, 1880.

(Télégraphique.)

REÇU télégramme concernant la question Monténégrine.

Notre auguste Souverain désire voir la prompte solution de cette question. C'est dans ce but que le Gouvernement Impérial a fait sa dernière proposition.

Comme nous n'avons reçu jusqu'à présent aucune répouse, vous êtes prié d'en accélérer l'envoi le plus tôt possible, car c'est alors que nous pourrons arriver à la solution désirée.

No. 630.

Musurus Bey to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 29.)

Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 29 Juillet, 1880.

E. MUSURUS BEY présente ses compliments à son Excellence le Comte Granville, et a l'honneur de lui transmettre ci-joint, avec prière de le placer sous les yeux de Sa Majesté la Reine, un télégramme responsif que Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan adresse à Sa Majesté la Reine, et que son Excellence Abédine Pacha vient d'envoyer à E. Musurus Bey en l'invitantà faire parvenir le dit télégramme à sa haute destination.

Inclosure in No. 630.

His Majesty the Sultan of Turkey to Her Majesty the Queen.

(Télégraphique.)

C'EST avec un sentiment de sincère amitié, et avec le soin et l'attention que mérite toute communication de votre Majesté, que j'ai pris connaissance du télégramme qu'elle a bien voulu m'adresser, attendu que l'exécution des clauses du Traité de Berlin constitue pour moi un devoir sacré.

Comme votre Majesté est l'amie bienveillante de ma personne et de mon Gouvernement Impérial, et comme j'ai la plus entière confiance qu'elle voudra bien dans l'avenir également me témoigner son affection, j'espère fermement en l'aide de votre Majesté pour l'accomplissement de ce devoir.

Je fais des vœux sincères pour le bonheur parfait de votre Majesté.

No. 631.

Pro-memorid communicated to Earl Granville by Count Hengelmüller, July 29, 1880.

BARON HAYMERLE informs me that the insertion of the words, "with regard to the Montenegrin and eventually also the Greek question," has been judged necessary because the precedents cited by Lord Granville had equally regard merely to definite questions, and because a "concerted action" of the Powers can only be spoken of with regard to those two questions.

Belgrave Square, July 28, 1880.

No. 632.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 29, 12·30 P.M.)

(No. 147.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 29, 1880, 9·45 A.M.

AMBASSADORS meet to-morrow morning at 11. It would be very desirable that all of us, if possible, receive instructions by that time to sign collective note. Russian and Italian Ambassadors are ready.

No. 633.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 29, 2 P.M.)

(No. 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, July* 29, 1880, 10 A.M.

THE Articles of the new law, so far as they were presented by the Porte, were finished yesterday, and the [? lengthy] chapter of the East Roumelian Statute on religious freedom was, on my motion, adopted with a few slight alterations. On Monday next the questions of gendarmerie, police, and justice will be discussed.

No. 634.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 403.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, July 29, 1880, 6·40 P.M.

IN reply to my inquiry why the Austrian Government had proposed to introduce into the Protocol renouncing any selfish object words which would limit it to the operations in regard to the Greek and Montenegrin frontiers, the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires has informed me that the intention was to follow strictly the precedents referred to in my original proposal, which were all limited to the particular operations in contemplation.

No. 635.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 404.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, July 29, 1880, 7 P.M.

WE learn that the Austrian Government have sent M. Rémy as temporary Agent to Janina. We shall be glad if the Austrian Government feel at liberty to communicate to us any information they receive from him.

No. 636.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 319.)
Foreign Office, July 29, 1880.

Sir,

IN your Excellency's despatch No. 140, Very Confidential, of the 13th instant, you report a conversation which passed between you and Abédine Pasha on the subject of the Cyprus Convention. I approve the manner in which your Excellency called his attention to the failure of Turkey hitherto to introduce into Asia Minor the reforms to which she is pledged by that instrument, and I shall be glad if you will take further opportunities of discussing the matter with Abédine Pasha, who appears to be personally in favour of employing English officers with full powers to improve the administration of the districts referred to.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 637.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 320.)
Foreign Office, July 29, 1880.

Sir,

THE representations which your Excellency made to Abédine Pasha on the 12th instant, with regard to the mischievous nature of recent Turkish appointments, and the complete apathy displayed by the present Ministry on every subject connected with reform, are entirely in accordance with the views of Her Majesty's Government, and I approve the language used by your Excellency on that occasion, as reported in your despatch No. 144, Confidential, of the 13th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 638.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 321.)
Foreign Office, July 29, 1880.

Sir,

THE Turkish Chargé d'Affaires called on the 26th instant and left with me a copy of the inclosed telegram from the Porte relative to the destruction of two villages by the Montenegrins and the recall of the Montenegrin Chargé d'Affaires from Constantinople.

In reply to an inquiry from Musurus Bey as to whether I considered that the Montenegrin Government were justified in withdrawing their Representative, I said that I must reserve my opinion until I had received further information, and had heard what both sides had to say.

With regard to the reputed attack upon the two villages, I told Musurus Bey that the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs had stated to Mr. Kirby Green that the Commander at Podgoritza had been ordered to take measures to restore discipline and to punish the guilty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 639.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1022. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, July 29, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1020 of yesterday, I transmit to you herewith a copy which I have received from the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires of the answer returned by the Porte to the identic note of the Powers with regard to the Greek frontier,* and I have to instruct you to communicate this summary to M. de Freycinet, and to state to him that Her Majesty's Government would be glad to consult the French Government confidentially as to the steps that should be taken upon it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 640.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 480.)
Foreign Office, July 29, 1880.

Sir,

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires informed me to-day, in reply to the inquiry which I had made, as reported in my despatch No. 464 of the 27th instant, as to the grounds on which his Government proposed to restrict the Protocol, renouncing selfish aims, to the action of the Powers in regard to the Greek and Montenegrin frontiers, that their intention had been to follow strictly the precedents to which Her Majesty's Government had referred, by the terms of which the engagement had been limited in each case to the particular operations with which it dealt.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 641.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 483.)
Foreign Office, July 29, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE to inform you that Her Majesty's Government learn that the Austro-Hungarian Government have sent M. Rémy as temporary Agent to Janina; and I have to request your Excellency to state that Her Majesty's Government would be glad should the Austrian Government feel at liberty to communicate to them any information they may receive from him.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* No. 628.

No. 642.

Earl Granville to Mr. Stephen.

(No. 46.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 29, 1880.*

I HAVE read with interest the Report of your conversation with the Prefect of Philippopoli, contained in your despatch No. 303, Confidential, of the 1st instant, and I approve the advice which you tendered to M. Consoloff as to the proper course to be pursued by the Bulgarians in order to secure the favourable judgment of Europe.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 643.

Earl Granville to M. Contostavlos.

M. le Ministre, *Foreign Office, July 29, 1880.*

WITH reference to the Confidential note which you did me the honour of addressing to me on the 21st instant, in regard to the advice offered by Her Majesty's Government to the Greek Government, I have the honour to acquaint you that Mr. Corbett was instructed to say that Her Majesty's Government considered the issue of the Proclamation calling out the reserves and mobilizing the army to be premature, at all events before the answer of the Porte had been received and considered by the Powers.

But Her Majesty's Government have no wish to impose their advice upon the Greek Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 644.

M. de Hengelmüller to Earl Granville.—(Received July 30.)

M. le Comte, *Belgrave Square, le 30 Juillet, 1880.*

LE 20 Juillet dernier j'avais eu l'honneur de soumettre à l'appréciation de votre Excellence la proposition du Gouvernement Impérial et Royal relative à la sanction à donner à l'Acte de Délimitation de la Dobroudja.

Ainsi que votre Excellence voudra bien se le rappeler du contenu de ma note, le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal était d'avis qu'il serait utile de comprendre tous les Actes de Délimitation, élaborés par les Commissions Européennes en vertu du Traité de Berlin, dans une même note, par laquelle ces Actes recevraient leur sanction finale. En conséquence, mon Gouvernement avait proposé d'insérer l'Acte relatif à la Dobroudja dans le texte de la note dont traitait la lettre de votre Excellence du Comte Károlyi du 8 Mai dernier et que les Puissances avaient acceptée.

Vu les inconvénients qui résultent du manque d'une frontière définie entre la Bulgarie et la Dobroudja mon Gouvernement désire vivement connaître l'accueil que sa proposition a trouvé auprès du Cabinet Britannique. Je me permets en conséquence de revenir de nouveau à ce sujet en priant votre Excellence de vouloir bien m'informer le plus tôt possible là-dessus.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) HENGELMÜLLER.

No. 645.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received July 30, 6·35 A.M.)

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 29, 1880, 4 P.M.*

I HAVE received Mr. Green's telegram and the papers referred to. He is opposed to a large Albania, but agrees in thinking that North-east Albania should at once be brought under new law, and that a local Commission should be summoned at Scutari to frame a new project, under Article XXIII, for that province; but thinks that Central and Southern Albania also can be at once brought under Statute. The French Commissioner, who knows Albania, holds similar opinions, but does not think a Commission at Scutari necessary. I do not agree, but hesitate to set my opinion against those having local knowledge. I should, however, be perfectly satisfied if such alteration of the boundaries of vilayets could be made as would separate the Albanian districts from the others and unite them in one or two Governments. The way to a large Albania would thus be prepared, and the new law applied to three of them, viz., North-east, Central, and Lower Albania, while we could make a few special provisions for Scutari in regard to mountain tribes.

No. 646.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 30, 9·30 A.M.)

(No. 62.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, July 29, 1880, 9 P.M.*

SCUTARI Committee has received telegraphic notice from Prisrend that 1,250 East Albanian volunteers will leave for this on Monday.

The village of Gosic was attacked and retaken yesterday by the Albanians.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 647.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 30.)

(No. 118.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July 30, 1880.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 419, Russia concurs in draft of collective note respecting Montenegro.

No. 648.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 30, 1880.*

YOUR No. 32.

I await Mr. Goschen's report of his views before forming an opinion.

No. 649.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 332.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 30, 1880, 3·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 147 of yesterday, French Government have not yet given definitive reply respecting draft collective note.

No. 650.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 333.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 30, 1880, 4·10 P.M.

I HAVE told Turkish Chargé d'Affaires that I have received very full reports from you of your communications with the Sultan and Turkish Government, and that the language you have held entirely represents the views of Her Majesty's Government.

No. 651.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 335.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 30, 1880, 5·30 P.M.

I HOPE that by to-morrow at latest your French colleague will receive instructions to sign the collective note to the Porte about Montenegrin frontier.

No. 652.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 26.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 30, 1880, 4·30 P.M.

YOURS No. 25.

Refer M. Tricoupi to language which you were instructed in my telegram No. 14 of the 7th July to hold, but add that Her Majesty's Government have no wish to impose their advice upon the Greek Government.

No. 653.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 327.) *Foreign Office, July* 30, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE urged upon M. de Montebello the importance of instructions being sent as soon as possible to your French colleague to enable him to sign the collective note to the Porte on the subject of the Montenegrin frontier, and I trust that M. Tissot will have received his instructions by to-morrow at latest.

A telegram in this sense has been dispatched to your Excellency to-day.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 654.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 328.) *Foreign Office, July* 30, 1880.

Sir,

I TOOK the opportunity of informing the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, who called upon me to-day, that I had received very full reports from your Excellency of your communications with the Sultan and the Turkish Government, and I assured Musurus Bey that the language which you have held on these occasions entirely represents the views of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 655.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 113.) *Foreign Office, July* 30, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram No. 25 of the 28th instant, stating that objections are no longer maintained by the other Powers to the mobilization of the Greek army, and that M. Tricoupi is anxious for the acquiescence of Her Majesty's Government in the measure.

I have replied to you by telegragh, requesting you to refer M. Tricoupi to the language which you were instructed to hold by my despatch No. 96 of the 7th instant, at the same time observing that there is no desire on the part of Her Majesty's Government to impose their advice upon that of Greece.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 656.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1033.) *Foreign Office, July* 30, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to the conversation which you had with M. de Freycinet as reported in your telegram No. 62 and your despatch No. 660 of the 27th instant, the French Minister has explained to me that it had not been M. de Freycinet's intention that the restriction of the combined operations in regard to the Montenegrin frontier to a simple naval demonstration should be introduced into the collective note to the Porte, or in any way made public. His Excellency, Count de Montebello said, had only been anxious to prevent any misapprehension as to the scope of the engagement the French Government were called upon to enter into. He had been led to define the point with precision, because you did not feel authorized to state the practical meaning of the word "assisting" employed in the proposal for the collective note.

M. de Freycinet was also desirous of knowing whether the collective note would be drawn up by Her Majesty's Government and proposed by them to the Powers, or whether its terms would be settled by the Ambassadors at Constantinople. In the latter case he should wish to see the text of the note before authorizing the French Ambassador to sign.

I told Count de Montebello that it was intended that the note should follow exactly the wording of the proposal which had been communicated by us to the Powers. I gave him a copy of the draft, of which it appeared that you had already furnished a French translation to the French Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 657.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1034.) *Foreign Office, July* 30, 1880.

Sir,

THE French Minister called upon me this afternoon, and told me that he had heard from M. de Freycinet that the Porte was ready to accept the Dulcigno arrangement, but was waiting for an answer from the Powers to its last proposal before formally announcing its acceptance. The Porte was pressing for a speedy reply, its urgency on the subject being no doubt due to its desire to prevent a note being sent in showing that the Powers had agreed on the employment of measures of coercion.

M. de Freycinet was anxious to know whether we had received the same information, and what were our views. He thought himself that it would be well to intimate officially to the Porte the refusal of the Powers to accept the last Turkish proposal.

I told the Count de Montebello that I thought our object should be to go on with the proposed collective note as soon as possible. I did not, however, see any objection to our intimating at once to the Porte our refusal of the compromise put forward in its last

reply, provided this was so done as not to interfere with the speedy delivery of the note in the terms already drawn up, and accepted by all the Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 658.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1035.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 30, 1880.

COUNT DE MONTEBELLO told me that the French Government were ready to join in the Protocol suggested by Her Majesty's Government by which the Powers would renounce any selfish objects or advantages in connection with their concerted action for the execution of the Treaty of Berlin. He said, however, that M. de Freycinet wished to have the exact text of the proposed instrument, as it did not appear that you had been authorized to give him a copy, and the wording you had communicated did not appear to be the form definitively adopted.

I gave Count de Montebello a copy of the draft originally proposed by us, and also of the wording proposed by the Austrian Government. The latter, as you will see by the inclosed copy,* limits the engagement taken in the Protocol to the action of the Powers in regard to the Greek and Montenegrin frontiers.

I told the French Minister that we should have made no objection to proposing the Protocol originally in this latter form; that I thought it would perhaps have been better that the question should not have been raised, but that the Austrian Government explained their suggestion of this modification as being due to a desire to follow strictly the wording of previous instruments of a like nature, and that, under these circumstances, we should offer no objection to it.

I noticed that M. de Freycinet seemed, from what Count de Montebello said, to be under the impression that the Protocol was to be communicated in some form to the Porte.

It may be as well that I should mention that the proposal has hitherto gone no further than that such a document should be signed by the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 659.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 212. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, July* 16, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Seyd Fetah Dragoussa, an Álim, belonging to one of the most influential families of Scutari, and a person who has taken a most prominent share in all the doings of the "Albanian League," has now returned from a mission with which he had been intrusted by the Committee of this place to the southern towns of the Province of Scutari, as well as to those of Middle Albania.

Seyd Fetah Dragoussa endeavoured to obtain the enrolment of volunteers to be dispatched at once to the camps at Tousi and Dulcigno, but, I understand, the promise already given has only been repeated, that assistance will be forthcoming when hostilities commence in earnest.

It is not impossible that the Seyd may have been secretly charged by the Governor-General to try and persuade the Mahommedan nobles of the southern districts to abandon their ideas about self-government or autonomy; but, even in this direction, he must also have failed, as I learn that the nobles still hold to their desire for administrative reforms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

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* No. 631.

No. 660.

Consul Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 213. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, July* 17, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 210 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I have renewed my inquiries about the manner in which the fight near Golubovci occurred, and, although the natives are aware that the Governor-General here has endeavoured to make political use of the incident by announcing it as having been brought about by the Montenegrins, they merely laugh and repeat that his Excellency is perfectly correct in his statement, as the Albanians did not use their arms until after the Montenegrins had discovered their presence within their lines and commenced firing.

As both the Albanians and Montenegrins admit that the former were the aggressors, no value can be attached to the assertion that the Montenegrins have compromised Izzet Pasha's negotiations for securing the acceptance of the terms of the April Convention, and of the existence of which negotiations the Albanians express themselves with as much amusement as about his Excellency's report of the fighting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 661.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 216. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, July* 18, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 178 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the force of Turkish regular troops here, which had been reduced by the discharge of soldiers said to have completed their terms of service to 2,900 men, has now been strengthened by the arrival from Constantinople of 800 soldiers, who have been withdrawn from regiments there to fill up the voids of the battalions here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 662.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 217. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, July* 19, 1880.

HAVING learnt that during the past week the local authorities had been spreading the report among the natives that I was their chief opponent, and that I had first recommended the cession of Dulcigno, and was now urging the immediate surrender of the territory comprised in the April Convention, I called yesterday afternoon upon Izzet Pasha and begged his Excellency to further, if possible, his political objects in this country without attempting to render the position of an agent of a friendly Power obnoxious to the natives among whom he is obliged to reside.

I pointed out to Izzet Pasha that it was my duty to study the standing of the Ottoman authorities in North Albania, and that I was, therefore, careful to avoid making public any information I might possess which could injure them in the estimation of the natives. The Porte was now trying to obtain the acceptance of a most unpopular concession it had recently found itself obliged to make to Montenegro, and although I felt sincerely with his Excellency for the unwelcome task before him, still I had to request him, most firmly, to avoid the temptation of sheltering himself behind the British Consul-General.

I was quite prepared to accept the risks and responsibilities that my own Government might think it proper to impose upon me, but I did not believe Her Majesty's Government would, for a moment, tolerate that it should be held up, through its agent, as a covert enemy of either Turkey or the Albanians.

Izzet Pasha was very profuse in his assurances that I had been misled as to the conduct of the authorities, and that, on the contrary, he had recently had occasion to explain to a deputation that no attention should be paid to newspaper and other reports concerning the action of foreign Governments and their agents, and especially of the English and myself.

I have no doubt that my warning to the Pasha will put a stop to his ignorant intrigues against British influence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 663.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 220. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, July 20, 1880.*

WITH reference to the modification of frontier proposed in the reply of the Porte to the identic note of the Great Powers on Montenegrin affairs, I have been assured by those best in the position to know, that the Turkish authorities here have no other justification for the belief that the Roman Catholic mountaineers would consent to the cession of the territory suggested than a hope that so it would be. On the other hand, I have every reason to understand that the mountaineers would refuse, with equal tenacity, the line in question as the whole of the frontier defined in the April Convention.

Izzet Pasha tells me that he has never once reported to the Porte that he could put the Montenegrins in peaceable possession of the cessions of the April arrangement without first being obliged to undertake a military expedition against the Roman Catholic tribes.

His Excellency was very much astonished to learn that the recent proposition with reference to a compensation on the western side of Lake Scutari was based on the condition that the Montenegrins should have to make no appreciable advance from the positions they now occupy to the east of the lake, and admitted that this fact gave the Dulcigno proposal a more practical aspect.

From all I can hear, Albano-Montenegrin frontier affairs appear to be treated in a very peculiar manner by the Porte, the opinions of many Generals who have a very slight knowledge of the country, and of Southern Albanians who have no acquaintance whatever with its organization, being allowed to outweigh those coming from North Albania itself.

So self-evident is the fact to every one on the spot that the moment one or two Roman Catholic tribes are legally and finally annexed to Montenegro the rest of the clans will elect to follow them, that resistance to the slightest encroachment of the mountain organization is felt to be of vital importance to the maintenance of the existing separation of North Albania from Montenegro.

The Hotti and Gruda once acquired would quickly become the Albanian call-birds in the hands of the Montenegrin fowler, and the next war with the Ottoman Empire would find the Slavs in command of mountain forces which would at once take possession of the whole coast-line as far as Durazzo, and would threaten from their heights the Plain of Kossovo and the northern borders of Macedonia.

As I have learnt that the principal objection to the Dulcigno proposal made here has been the possession by Montenegro of the northern shore of the entrance of the River Bojana, I have thrown out a hint that, instead of at once condemning a settlement which might have, after all, some elements of advantage, it would be better to make known the objections which are considered so important, and perhaps, then, if found valid and really affecting disastrously the military position of Scutari, some remedy might be devised which would at last leave the Porte and the Montenegrins sufficiently close to finally bring them to an understanding.

I have not ventured to telegraph these impressions to your Lordship, as I have thought it would be of more advantage to leave the modifications now brought forward by the Porte unencumbered by fresh subjects of doubt. When this despatch reaches your Lordship sufficient time will have elapsed for the true value of the Turkish proposals to have been ascertained, and if they have withered like the rest, the Porte might be led once more to consider with care the Dulcigno plan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 664.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 221. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, July 20, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a note received by me last night from Voïvoda Radonich, on the step taken by the Montenegrin Government to obtain the retraction by the Porte of the statement it has made accusing the Montenegrins of having been the aggressors on the 12th instant in the fight near Golubovci.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 664.

M. Radonich to Mr. Kirby Green.

(Télégraphique.)
M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Cettinjé le $\frac{5}{17}$ Juillet, 1880.*

J'AI l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-après la dépêche que le Gouvernement Princier vient d'adresser à son Chargé d'Affaires à Constantinople :—

"Nous venons d'apprendre que la Porte, par le canal de ses Ambassadeurs en Europe, porte officiellement à la connaissance des Grandes Puissances que dans l'affaire du 12 Juillet courant les Monténégrins seraient tombés sur les positions de Vranja et Matagouch, et auraient attaqués les Albanais. Cette manière de défigurer les faits que vous connaissez, et qui sont également connus en détail par les Représentants étrangers à Cettinjé, prouve une fois de plus la mauvaise volonté de la Sublime Porte à notre égard, ainsi que sa connivence intime avec ce qui se passe en Albanie.

"Nous ne pouvons nous expliquer cette manière de déguiser la vérité que par le désir de la Porte de trouver un prétexte pour ne pas remplir les stipulations du mémorandum du 12 Avril, dont elle vient de promettre la prompte exécution.

"Pour que les relations entre les deux Gouvernements puissent être rendues possibles à l'avenir vous êtes chargé, en portant ce qui précède à la connaissance du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Sublime Porte, de le prier de faire démentir par le même canal officiel ces faits notoirement faux.

"Dans le cas que la Sublime Porte se refuserait de donner cette satisfaction à la vérité, vous êtes autorisé à quitter Constantinople, en informant les Ambassadeurs des Grandes Puissances du motif de votre rappel."

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) RADONICH.

No. 665.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 254.)
My Lord, *Athens, July 24, 1880.*

ALL the Representatives of the Great Powers at Athens, with the exception of the Italian Chargé d'Affaires, have made representations to the Greek Government in the sense of the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's telegram No. 14 of the 7th instant.

Count de Foresta duly reported to his Government that his colleagues had done so, but he has received no instructions to join in our representations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 666.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 31.)

(No. 424. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, July* 26, 1880.

I SPOKE to-day to Baron Haymerle of your Lordship's conversation with the Austrian Ambassador, mentioned in your despatch No. 396A, on the subject of the Unionist agitation in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, which Count Károlyi appears to have reported to his Government very superficially, if at all.

His Excellency entirely agreed with your Lordship, that an attempt by the Turkish Government to garrison the Balkan frontier, with a view to check a Unionist movement, would probably precipitate an explosion, and ought not to be encouraged, but the right of the Porte to send troops into Eastern Roumelia to suppress an insurrectionary movement if it were to break out could not be contested by any one, and he believed that the power possessed by the Turks of putting it down would be found much greater than was commonly supposed.

He had heard with much satisfaction your Lordship's assurance to Count Károlyi, that Her Majesty's Government were exerting themselves to dissuade the Bulgarian Government from encouraging any Unionist movement, and he would not discuss the question whether or not a union might become unavoidable, nor suggest any measures to be taken at present to avert it. His immediate anxiety was one which he knew your Lordship to entertain as strongly as he did himself. A concert among the Powers had been happily arrived at, and our object now was to maintain it: its basis—and its only basis—was the Treaty of Berlin, and if that were to be shaken there would be nothing upon which it could rest, and the present understanding would not long survive.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 667.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 31.)

(No. 426. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, July* 27, 1880.

THE Austro-Hungarian Government have received an explanation similar to that given to your Lordship by Prince Lobanow respecting the rifles supplied to the Bulgarian Government by Russia.

Baron Haymerle has remarked to me that it is, in fact, no explanation at all.

It only shows that a fresh supply of arms of the latest pattern had been granted to the Bulgarians, in addition to those previously left with them, which consisted of the rifles in use in the Russian army at the time of the Turkish war.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 668.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 31.)

(No. 428. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, July* 27, 1880.

I INFORMED Baron Haymerle of the substance of your Lordship's despatch No. 431, Confidential, as amended by telegraph, stating that Her Majesty's Government would approve in principle any declaration that he might propose for the purpose of satisfying the Porte that if it complied with the required abandonment of territory, no further concessions beyond those prescribed by the Treaty of Berlin would be required of the Sultan.

His Excellency was greatly pleased by this communication, and said that he would consider what might be the best form of declaration to be made, but he suggested that it might, perhaps, be possible to introduce it as a sort of preamble to the Protocol by which the Powers were to disclaim any special advantage to themselves in the demonstrations which are being concerted.

He asked whether the Protocol might not commence by a statement that "the Powers being resolved that the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin should be strictly adhered to," had determined to secure it by sending ships, &c., but he merely threw this out as a suggestion made upon the first blush.

I replied that I would inform your Lordship of what he had said, but although a preamble such as he had hinted at might perhaps have been adopted at an earlier stage, as the Protocol proposed by Her Majesty's Government appeared to have been generally accepted, I did not think it likely that your Lordship would wish now to suggest a modification which some of the Governments might hesitate in agreeing to.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 669.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 31.)

(No. 665.)

My Lord, *Paris, July* 30, 1880.

IT is indisputable that the Paris press is very unanimous in favour of a policy of non-intervention on the part of France in the present crisis, and, as the plot thickens, and the chances of hostilities breaking out between Turkey and Greece are looked upon here as more probable, many of the newspapers take a more decided tone, and deprecate any action on the part of the French Government which might lead to France being involved in war.

It may be of interest to record the appreciations of newspapers of different shades at this time.

The calm and philosophical "Journal des Débats," by the pen of its talented contributor, Francis Charmes, declares that France should carefully abstain from any step not taken in common with Europe; that with Europe she can advance, and, at the proper moment, retire; and that the European concert can only be brought to bear actively on two matters—the settlement of the Montenegrin question and the settlement of the Greek question.

The "Petit Journal," a halfpenny print, which has a very extensive circulation and much influence in the country, and is owned by M. Girardin and his friends, and "La France," in much the same hands, go decidedly further, and insist that France must remain entirely neutral, that the Government must not, in any case, be led to decided action, for France has enough to do at home; she has done with "la passion des aventures." Henceforward she must devote all her energies to improving her internal state; she must have peace; she has no interest in this question, and expects no share in the inheritance of Turkey; therefore she is not going to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for others. If war breaks out, she must know how to stand aside, whilst other Powers weaken thmselves.

The Conservative and the extreme Radical press have not lost so palpable an opportunity for abusing the Government and M. Gambetta, its real head. M. Gambetta's declared partiality for Greece, and M. Waddington's action at the Congress of Berlin, come in for a round share of abuse, and both the Government and the President of the Chamber are accused of pursuing a policy calculated to plunge France into a war.

The "République Française," still inspired by M. Gambetta, is singularly silent.

The "Temps," which is said to be occasionally inspired by the French Foreign Office, is positive on the point that the Montenegrin and Greek questions are to be treated together, and that in order to avoid a conflagration, the end of which no one could foresee, Europe must pursue but one object—the general pacification of the Ottoman Empire. It declares the duty of France to be to participate in the European concert as long as it subsists, but to revert to absolute neutrality if that concert ceases, and conflicting interests, which are not those of France, should take its place. If the concert is maintained, it will be so harmless as to compromise no one, except, perhaps, England; if it is broken up by national rivalries, France will return to her neutral attitude.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 670.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 31.)

(No. 669. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, July* 30, 1880.

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's Confidential despatch No. 1022 of yesterday, I this afternoon stated to M. de Freycinet that Her Majesty's Government would be glad to consult the French Government confidentially as to the steps that should be taken upon the answer returned by the Porte to the identic note of the Powers with regard to the Greek frontier.

M. de Freycinet said that he had only received a copy of the note yesterday evening. The gist of it, he remarked, was in the conclusion, where the Porte requests the Powers to authorize their Representatives at Constantinople to come to an understanding with it, with the view of facilitating the negotiations both for fixing definitively the frontier line, and with reference to the secondary points and the details.

This proposal, his Excellency went on to say, seemed to him quite inadmissible. He could not, indeed, look upon it as serious, but he considered that it was made simply in order to gain time by reopening the whole question, and that by accepting it the Powers would be going back to much the same point from which they started some two years ago.

For his part, his Excellency continued, he was of opinion that the decision come to at the late Berlin Conference ought to be irrevocable, and that the Powers, having laid down a certain line of frontier, should abide by it, and not entertain any proposal for a different line.

As to the steps which it might be advisable to take upon this answer of the Porte, M. de Freycinet said that, as he had received the document so lately, he was really at present unable to form an opinion or to discuss the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 671.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 31.)

(No. 670.)
My Lord, *Paris, July* 30, 1880.

ON my recurring this afternoon to the conversation which I had had with M. de Freycinet on the 27th instant with regard to the collective note proposed by Her Majesty's Government on the Montenegrin question, as reported in my despatch No. 660 of that day, his Excellency read to me the telegrams which had passed between himself and M. de Montebello, in consequence of the conversation between the latter and your Lordship, which is the subject of your despatch No. 1014 of the 28th instant.

From these telegrams it appeared that, as your Lordship had informed M. de Montebello, that all the Powers had given in their adhesion to the collective note in question, the French Government agreed to do so likewise, but that M. de Freycinet wished to have the exact text of the note, which, as he said, I had told him I was not authorized to give to him, because it was the decypher of a telegram.

I should here mention that what I did put into his Excellency's hands was a French literal translation of your Lordship's draft, and M. de Freycinet is aware that this translation did in fact embody the very terms of the English draft. Still M. de Freycinet said that he was desirous of having an exact copy of the note for the Archives, as he expressed it, and he had accordingly telegraphed to M. de Montebello with a view of obtaining the same from your Lordship.

With respect to the conditions that he had attached to joining in the naval demonstration, M. de Freycinet told me that he was now satisfied that in fact there was no difference between the two Governments. He had asked me to define the word "assisting," but he had never intended that any words should be inserted in the proposed note to the effect that there should be no cannon shots or disembarkation of troops on the part of the Powers. He quite agreed that their insertion in the note would destroy all feeling of intimidation which the naval demonstration might otherwise create at the Porte. His Excellency said that he understood that on your Lordship's part there had never been a question of disembarking troops, and he expressed himself as satisfied with the explanations given to M. de Montebello by your Lordship.

I was careful to explain to M. de Freycinet that I had certainly not reported to your Lordship that he required the insertion of the words in question in the proposed note, but that I had simply repeated his observations to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 672.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 31.)

(No. 26.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, July* 31, 1880.

YOUR Lordship's No. 26.

Greek Government will not publish Proclamation to mobilize army until France and England approve the step. They still think it necessary, especially since answer of Porte is known, in order to be prepared in case of resistance, and to retain old soldiers. They would be satisfied with negative approval, but will not act contrary to direct advice.

No. 673.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 31, 7 A.M.)

(No. 151.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 30, 1880, 8·10 P.M.

AT our meeting to-day we agreed to communicate to our Governments as follows:—

"The Porte has confidentially informed us that in replying to the note expected from us on the Montenegrin question she will declare herself ready to accept our arrangement with regard to Dulcigno.

"We have reason to think that she hopes thus to avoid a naval demonstration, and we deem it a duty to communicate the fact at once so as to receive timely instructions in the event of the Porte putting forward a request in this sense.

"Besides, it would be desirable that we should be authorized to stipulate precise conditions as to the mode of transfer by the Turks of the ceded territories, so as to avoid the difficulties which arose at the time of the arrangement of the 18th April."

No. 674.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 31, 7 A.M.)

(No. 154.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 30, 1880, 8·30 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 151 of to-day, I was asked by Minister for Foreign Affairs whether the Powers would be satisfied by the cession of the Dulcigno territory by the Porte.

I replied that the Powers would hold the Porte responsible for its peaceful surrender, and for the Albanians making no counter-attack elsewhere. He said we could not demand more than was bargained for in the April Convention as to the conditions of cession, but I stated that, whatever there might be in that Convention, Europe would hold the Porte responsible, according to international law, for the acts of its subjects. The plan seems to be to accept the Dulcigno proposal at once and thus rid themselves of naval demonstration. Your Lordship will see that, according to the draft of note, a demonstration would only be contemplated in the event of the Turks declaring their acceptance of the April Convention and not carrying it out in three weeks. Possibly you may decide on sending ships to superintend the execution of the Dulcigno cession in any case, looking to the Albanian movements. The Porte may be anxious to avoid the Turkish population seeing the union of the Powers illustrated by a combined fleet, but in view of the Greek question, the Powers may take a contrary view.

No. 675.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 31, 8 P.M.)

(No. 154 ?.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 31, 1880, 2·45 P.M.

I HAVE written to your Lordship a despatch, dated the 28th instant, about a conversation with the Russian Ambassador on Bulgarian and Roumelian topics.

I casually mentioned that offenders connected with Kirdjali business were practically unpunished. He said this was very delicate ground, as most were Russian officers, but he knew that they were [group apparently omitted; ? struck] off the lists of the army. I told him one officer was not dismissed. His Excellency did not conceal that Russia would be much offended if we interfered respecting these officers. Stephen had telegraphed to me that, if matters remained as they are as regards Kirdjali, justice would probably not be done as regards Aïdos. I told him I could not authorize remonstrances unless instructed by your Lordship, but asked for more precise information. He now telegraphs as follows:—

"With reference to your Excellency's telegram of yesterday, commander of detachment of militia (a Russian) retains his commission. He started yesterday for Russia on leave of absence.

"The other three Russian officers have been dismissed from militia, but no official Ordinance announcing the fact has been published, nor has any publicity whatever been given to their dismissal. Two of them have lately left the province. The other is still here, wearing a Russian uniform.

"Fifth officer is a Bulgarian, he has been acquitted by [two groups wrong] and released from arrest.

"The meaning I intended to give to the second paragraph of my telegram No. 6 was that representations might, perhaps, advantageously be made to the authorities here for the punishment of the Bulgarian officer, and for the formal surrender of the four Russian officers to the Russian military authorities for trial and punishment."

Please telegraph instructions when you receive my despatch of the 28th instant.

No. 676.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 341.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 31, 1880, 6·25 P.M.

YOUR No. 154.

I approve your language to the Porte respecting Dulcigno cession, which is to the same effect as that which I held to Count Montebello, who asked me yesterday from M. de Freycinet what I thought on the subject.

No. 677.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 31, 1880, 6·47 P.M.

YOURS No. 155.

Sultan's answer to the Queen was telegraphed through Musurus Bey, and communicated by him on 29th. Following is translation:—

"I have taken cognizance with a sentiment of sincere friendship, and with the care and attention which every communication from your Majesty deserves, of the telegram which you have been good enough to send me, because the execution of the clauses of the Berlin Treaty is for me a sacred duty. As your Majesty is the kind friend of myself and of my Government, and as I have the fullest confidence that you will equally in the future show me your affection, I hope firmly in the aid of your Majesty for the accomplishment of this duty. I form sincere wishes for the perfect happiness of your Majesty."

No. 678.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 31, 4·10 P.M.)

(No. 71.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, July* 31, 1880.

PRINCE HOHENLOHE tells me that France and Austria have asked Germany to agree to the note respecting Montenegro confidentially asked for by the Porte and recommended by the Ambassadors at Constantinople. His Highness is waiting to know your Lordship's opinion before he replies, but he is willing to concur if all the other Powers are agreed.

No. 679.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 331.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 31, 1880.

I APPROVE your having told Abédine Pasha in reply to his inquiry whether the Powers would be satisfied with the cession to Montenegro of the Dulcigno territory, that the Porte would be held responsible for its peaceful surrender, and must provide against any counter attack elsewhere on the part of the Albanians.

I used language to the same effect to the French Chargé d'Affaires, who called upon me yesterday, and was charged by M. de Freycinet to ascertain my view of the matter.

The substance of this despatch has been telegraphed to your Excellency.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 680.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 332.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 31, 1880.

I INCLOSE a translation of the Sultan's reply to the Queen's message, which was telegraphed to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires and communicated by him to me on the 29th instant.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* Inclosure in No. 630.